

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Solidarity given warning of bloodshed

The ruling Communist Politburo warned Solidarity that bloodshed could result from the present power struggle and said it would use all means to prevent a political takeover.

The statement, which stopped short of threatening to call a state of emergency, said actions taken at the union's Congress had unilaterally broken the agreements that launched Solidarity. They had been replaced by a programme of opposition which was at the vital interests of the Polish people and was tantamount to direct confrontation. "Salvation plan," Page 2

Strike bill uproar

India's Parliament broke out in anger when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Government introduced a bill banning strikes in essential services.

Vietnam charge

Vietnam denied U.S. charges that its forces in Laos and Kampuchea used chemical weapons and accused the U.S. of employing chemical warfare in the 1960s in South Vietnam.

Ex-Nazis on trial

Two former Nazi SS officers went on trial in Stuttgart in connection with the murder of more than 100 Jews in the Ukraine during World War II.

Swapo threat

Swapo leader Sam Nujoma warned that his troops were prepared for a protracted war in Namibia against South Africa despite Western efforts to bring about a settlement.

Nott visits Cairo

UK Defence Minister John Nott arrived in Cairo for talks on military sales and British technical assistance for Egypt.

Howell on lorries

New Transport Secretary David Howell is to concentrate on road and rail transport efficiency and consider requests for an increase in lorry weight limits.

\$1m raid

Gunmen escaped with £1m in a raid on a Securicor van near Chatham, Kent.

Engineer freed

British engineer Bill Johnson has been released after spending four months in a Saudi Arabian prison following a road accident in which an Arab died.

Student jailed

Belfast student Paul Salmon, 30, was sentenced to six months imprisonment and ordered to pay £1,000 compensation for slashing a portrait of the Princess of Wales.

Plant blockade

Women scaled the barbed wire fence of the new Diablo Canyon nuclear plant in California as demonstrators resumed the blockade and police arrested 500 people.

Briefly...

Tottenham Hotspur supporters fought with local black youths in the centre of Amsterdam.

Robbers stole £200,000 worth of gold bars and jewellery from a Dublin businessman.

A judge's ruling that three mental hospital patients could vote was hailed as a "landmark".

Kurdish guerrillas seeking independence killed an Iranian army general.

Ethiopia released 549 prisoners to mark seventh anniversary of Haile Selassie's fall.

Irish hunger striker Eamon O'Connor ended his 39-day fast.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

Wholes (G. H.)	195	+	20
ern-Consulate	82	+	6
Union Discount	430	+	20
anks Con	332	+	7
FALLS			
annel Tunnel	160	-	15
stillers	194	-	7
KN	167	-	9

BUSINESS

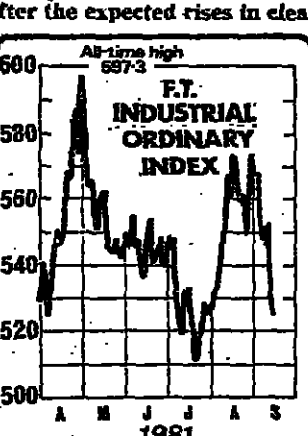
Sterling up 1.35c; equities fall 8.8

STERLING rose 1.25 cents to \$1.849, but lost ground against Continental currencies, closing at DM 4.26 (DM 4.29) and SwFr 2.675 (SwFr 2.67). Its trade-weighted index was 88.6 (88.5). Page 32

DOLLAR fell to DM 2.303 (DM 2.335) and FF 5.3225 (FF 5.5975) but rose to Y226.75 (Y225.5). Its trade-weighted index was 108.4 (108.3). Page 32

GOLD fell \$8 in London to \$451. In New York, the Comex September close was \$451.1. Page 32

EQUITIES continued weak after the expected rise in clearing bank base rates. The FT 30-share index fell 8.8 to 255.5. Page 40



FT 30-share index fell 8.8 to 255.5. Page 40

GLTS were steady, with the Government Securities Index up 0.15 at 62.67. Page 40

WALL STREET was down 7.89 to 859.46 near the close. Page 33

U.S. INTEREST RATES were creating serious problems for the Japanese economy, said Bank of Japan governor Maruo Makawa. Page 3

TAX CUTS for business and personal taxpayers were urged by the Institute of Directors.

EXXON CHEMICAL won a contract to design, build and manage the major part of a Sumatra petrochemical plant project likely to cost about \$2bn (£1.1bn). Back Page

FORD of BRAZIL will spend \$400m (£210m) to expand plant capacity and produce the Escort. Back Page

PAN AMERICAN World Airways UK staff agreed to a 10 per cent pay cut and a 1982 wage freeze. Page 8

BRITISH SHIPBUILDERS union negotiators called an overtime ban from tomorrow and weekly one-day strikes from September 28 over the threatened closure of Dundee's Robb Caledon yard.

SCOTTISH Development Agency will spend £9m in the next three years on a drive to attract jobs to Galloway, Ayrshire. Page 7

COMPANIES

RIO TINTO-ZINC group reported net attributable profits down from £89.7m to £47m for the first half of 1981. Page 25; Lex, Back Page

HAW PAR International, the Singapore investment holding company, lifted group pre-tax profit 15 per cent to \$815.69m (\$4m) for the half-year to end June. Page 30

BICC paid £11m for the U.S. Burndy Corporation's 50 per cent stake in their joint UK electrical parts company. Page 25

BURMAH OIL raised pre-tax profits by £4.8m to £33m for the first half of 1981. Page 24; Lex, Back Page

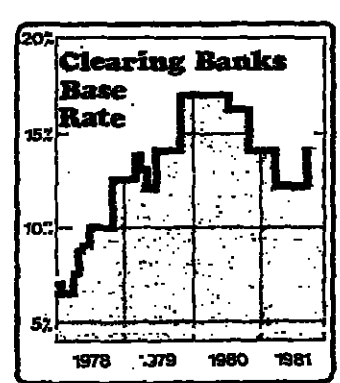
DELTA Group, the power equipment and metals company, reported first half pre-tax profit down from £13.45m to £5.44m. Page 26

Dearer mortgages 'inevitable' as base rates go up to 14%

BY WILLIAM HALL AND ANDREW TAYLOR

THE FOUR main clearing banks raised base rates yesterday by 2 percentage points to 14 per cent, putting up the cost of overdrafts for prime borrowers to 15 per cent and making a rise in building society mortgage rates appear inevitable.

The banks' move follows the Bank of England's intervention in the money markets last Monday, which pushed up short-term rates by more than a point. The Bank's action was aimed primarily at halting the fall in sterling on the foreign exchanges, but it said a rise in interest rates was necessary in view of the rapid expansion of bank lending to the private sector.



Clearing Banks Base Rate

Three of the four main clearing banks increased their seven-day savings deposit rates by two-and-a-half percentage points to 11.5 per cent. However, Midland Bank only increased its seven-day deposit rate to 11 per cent.

Midland was also the odd man out on its home loan rates. Midland's mortgage rates tied to base rates, they automatically rise by two percentage points to 16 per cent. The other big banks have recently introduced special mortgage rates and said that they would keep them unchanged for the time being.

Barclays and Lloyds remain at 14 per cent while National Westminster maintains the 13.5 per cent level for home loans

which it introduced in July.

The Building Societies Association said last night that the rise in bank savings deposit rates made an increase in building society mortgages and investment rates inevitable.

The societies are not scheduled to meet again to discuss rates until October 9, but it seems likely that an earlier meeting may now be called.

Some societies were talking yesterday in terms of a 2 percentage point rise in the mortgage base rate to 15 per cent, with an increase in the recommended ordinary share investment rate from 8.5 per cent to 10 per cent.

The building societies will be watching closely to see if the other main banks join the Midland in raising home loan rates.

But it is more likely that societies will decide to go ahead

with increases even if the banks delay in bringing their home loan rates into line.

Building societies have faced increasing competitive pressures in recent months, particularly from government savings schemes. In August, society net receipts fell to £24m, their lowest level for 12 months.

Societies had been prepared to hold their rates at current levels until the Bank of England intervention on Monday. They have so far been able to maintain a high level of lending this year by reducing liquidity ratios. A total of £1,023bn was advanced to home buyers in August compared to £836m in the same month last year.

The increase in bank base rates is the first for nearly two years and is expected to exacerbate the financial problems of industrial borrowers.

Mr John Davis, chief general manager of Lloyds Bank said: "Market forces coupled with higher rates applied by the central bank have driven us to raise our base rate. We regret the increase in costs to our customers but recognise the need to protect the external value of the pound."

Money market rates were unchanged yesterday and seven-day interbank rates closed at 14 1/2 per cent. The pound rose 1.35 cents to \$1.849 but was weaker against some continental currencies.

Economic viewpoint, Page 23

Unions in no mood for strife - Tebbit

Financial Times Reporter

MR NORMAN TEBBIT, the new Employment Secretary, yesterday brushed aside trade union warnings of a winter confrontation over the Government's 4 per cent cash limit for public service pay rises.

Mr Tebbit said at his first Press conference in his new role: "I just don't think that the people I talk to at all levels of industry and the public service are rushing around talking about taking on the Government, confrontation and all

that. I don't think they are in that type of mood."

Some union negotiators acknowledged privately yesterday that Mr Tebbit's assessment was not wide of the mark.

Public service unions will join hands to try to defeat the negotiating ceiling announced by the Government on Tuesday but there is no sign of grassroots mobilisation for industrial action.

Mr Tebbit said the cash limit was a statement of economic fact. "I don't suppose anyone will be unduly excited about it, but I think if unions approach it constructively they will see the need for that limit."

Nationalised industries, which are subject to the constraint of external financing limits, would be in a different position. Some would have more room for manoeuvre than others, Mr Tebbit said. Those in intensely competitive markets, like B.L., would have the least flexibility.

Despite the fact that the 4 per cent pay provision does not apply directly to the nationalised industries, it was made clear in Whitehall yesterday that the firm hope was that settlements there would be around that level.

The Treasury makes no provision for nationalised industries' pay rises. Each industry builds into its needs demand for its external financing limit an assumption about the level of pay settlement the industry can afford.

Negotiations are in progress. Continued on Back Page

Volcker cautions Senate on budget deficit

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

BIG U.S. Federal budget deficits would continue to swallow "a large fraction of one of our scarcest resources—savings," Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board (Fed), said yesterday.

He implied strongly this would deal a mortal blow to President Ronald Reagan's economic policies as well as keeping inflation and interest rates high. The President has aimed to boost the economy through tax and spending cuts.

Mr Volcker told a Senate committee that the toughest part of the job remained ahead to maintain a consistent anti-inflation policy.

Persistently high long-term interest rates in the U.S. money markets showed that "a lot of bets on the future are still being hedged against the possibility that you (Congress), and we (the Fed), will not carry through."

The central bank chief said the markets' reaction was ironic, in view of the recent slight dip in U.S. inflation, the Fed's own restraining hand on the money supply and Congressional initial cuts in public spending.

But Americans had not seen for many years a successful fight against inflation or on balanced budgets or so massive a tax reduction as the 25 per cent income-tax cut enacted to start on October 1.

The chairman of the constitutionally independent Fed's sombre words contrasted sharply with Administration statements yesterday.

Mr Donald Regan, Treasury Secretary, forecast a precipitous drop in interest rates once the Reagan programme's impact was felt.

His monetary affairs specialist at the Treasury, Mr Beryl Sprinkel, echoed the same line, to the extent of predicting a return to normal levels in the cost of money by the end of the year.

In his first major statement since Washington politicians started to wrangle with the twin problems of budget deficits and high interest rates, two weeks ago, Mr Volcker challenged Congress to close the deficit gap by "cutting the spending suit to fit the revenue cloth."

Thus, he disappointed Democrats on the Senate Budget Committee who yesterday had called for the enacted tax cuts to be either partially rescinded or delayed.

Ideally the means to nervous Government borrowing and deficits preferred by U.S. business and financial markets were further spending cuts rather

than tax increases or tax-cut delays.

Equally, however, Mr Volcker dismayed many Republicans with his estimate of how much further spending needed to be cut to bring the U.S. budget near balance.

President Reagan is contemplating spending cuts of about \$44bn (£24bn) in the 1983-84 budget. Mr Volcker's prescription was of the order of \$80bn to \$100bn for that year. The Fed chairman, straying dangerously close to the political arena, suggested this could not be done without further cuts in defence or reductions in social security retirement.

Mr Volcker, reacting to the popular sentiment to blame the interest rate level on the central bank, stressed that the Fed did not necessarily have the power to reduce rates, even if that were its sole objective.

The Fed's main market mechanism was its supply of and withdrawal of reserves to and from the banking system.

He said that even if the money supply was "pumped up with reserves" this would not necessarily reduce interest rates because the markets would know such a move heralded inflation pressures.

The Fed's power was limited. Recent declines in shorter-term rates on Federal funds and Treasury bills was not due to an easing by the central bank but to a temporary slackening in credit demand by the private sector.

Mr Volcker saw, generally, the Federal Government on present trends continuing to crowd private borrowers out of the credit markets. "Doubts that inflation will be brought under control continue to act perversely as an incentive to borrow," he said.

This private credit demand could not be fully met, when, for instance, in 1980 net new savings in the U.S. totalled \$170bn and the Government and its agencies took more than \$80bn of that.

Mr Volcker agreed that by international standards U.S. budget deficits were small in relation to gross national product. "But so are our savings and it is the relation between the two that counts," he said.

U.S. Industrial Production, Page 5

£ in New York		
	Sept. 15	Previous
Spot	\$1,849.00	\$1,805.00
1 month	1.33-1.42 pm	0.40-0.47 pm
3 months	1.30-1.40 pm	1.40-1.50 pm
12 months	4.80-5.00 pm	6.20-6.40 pm

Overwhelming support for Liberal-SDP link

BY ELINOR GOODMAN

THE LIBERAL assembly yesterday set the seal on an alliance with the Social Democrats. Both parties believe the alliance could break the two-party system and put them in a position of real power after the next election.

The alliance, approved by 16 to one, was a triumph for Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader. Nevertheless the debate showed the deep mistrust some Liberals have for the SDP, and could well be a pointer to problems ahead when the parties try to put the alliance into effect.

Immediately after the vote, the SDP stepped up its pressure on Labour MPs to make the break with Labour soon after their party conference. Mr Bill Rodgers, the Social Democrat in

charge of organisation, said that Labour MPs who applied to join after December 31 could not expect first claim to fight their seat, as alliance candidates at the next election.

Negotiators from the two parties are to meet within the next 10 days to discuss putting the alliance into effect. The idea is that eventually the two parties should each fight roughly half Britain's mainland constituencies. Negotiations will be handled at a regional level and there will be no national campaign as the SDP had originally hoped.

Both sides acknowledged that there were problems ahead. Mrs Shirley Williams, who along with Mr Roy Jenkins, Mr

Rodgers and three SDP MPs sat in the visitors' gallery throughout the two-and-a-half hour debate, said it would be a "bumpy road." But at the end of yesterday's debate the leaders of both parties were in a buoyant mood.

Mr Jenkins, who was seen by many yesterday as a potential leader of the alliance, said "it was a major step on the road to a Liberal SDP Government."

The vote clears the way for the two parties to fight the next election under one umbrella. Each party will retain its identity, but the degree to which they will continue to operate independently is one of

Continued on Back Page
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L. & G. enters U.S. life market

BY ERIC SHORT

LEGAL and General Group, the UK's second largest life company, yesterday announced its entry into the U.S. life market by making an agreed \$140m (£78m) offer for the Washington-based Government Employees Life Insurance Company (GELICO).

Although the U.S. is the largest insurance market in the world for life and non-life business, UK life companies transact very little life business in this market, in contrast to their sizeable non-life activities.

Official statistics from the Life Offices Association showed that in 1979, the latest available year, UK life companies received less than £48m in premium income from the U.S. out of their £802m total overseas life business in the year.

In the past two or three years

some major European insurance groups have been entering the U.S. life market by acquiring U.S. life companies. Legal and General is however the first big UK life company to take this step.

Recent entrants into the U.S. life market have included a \$330m takeover of the Life Insurance Company of Georgia in June 1979 by the Dutch group Nationale Nederlanden.

Earlier this year another Dutch insurance group, Ennia, put in a \$144m bid for National Old Line Insurance, Zurich Insurance of Switzerland made a \$95m bid for Jefferson National Life in September last year. It called off the attempt two months later but then said it still planned to strengthen its position in the U.S. through acquisition.

Legal and General is acquiring GELICO through a tender offer of \$30.75 in cash for each of the outstanding common shares. The GEICO Corporation, which owns about 66 per cent of the stock of GELICO, has accepted the offer.

GELICO writes individual and group life insurance, accident and health insurance and annuities with concentration on individual business. It conducts its business in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

At the end of 1980 total life business in force amounted to \$2bn, with stockholders' funds of \$88m. The company's net earnings after tax in 1980 amounted to \$8.4m. In the first six months of this year its premium income remained static at \$15.4m.

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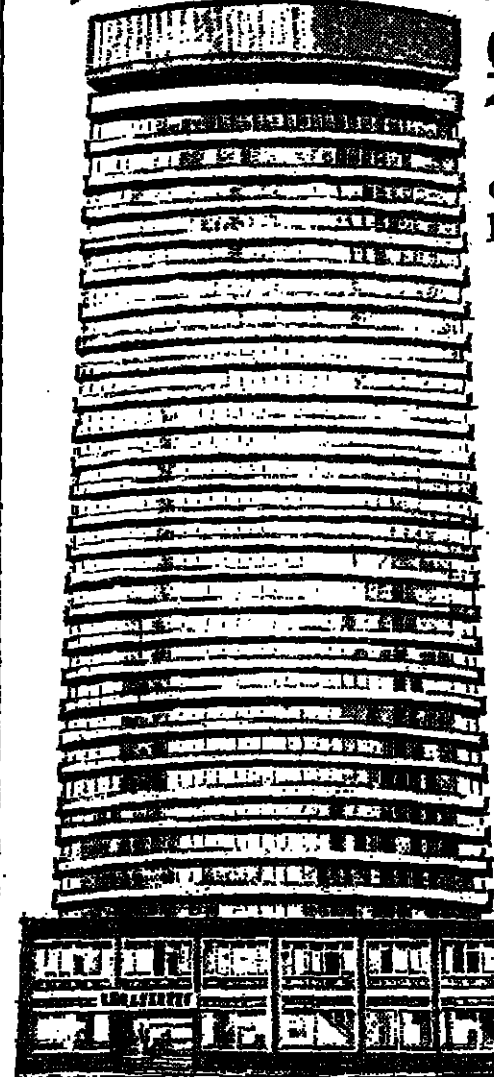
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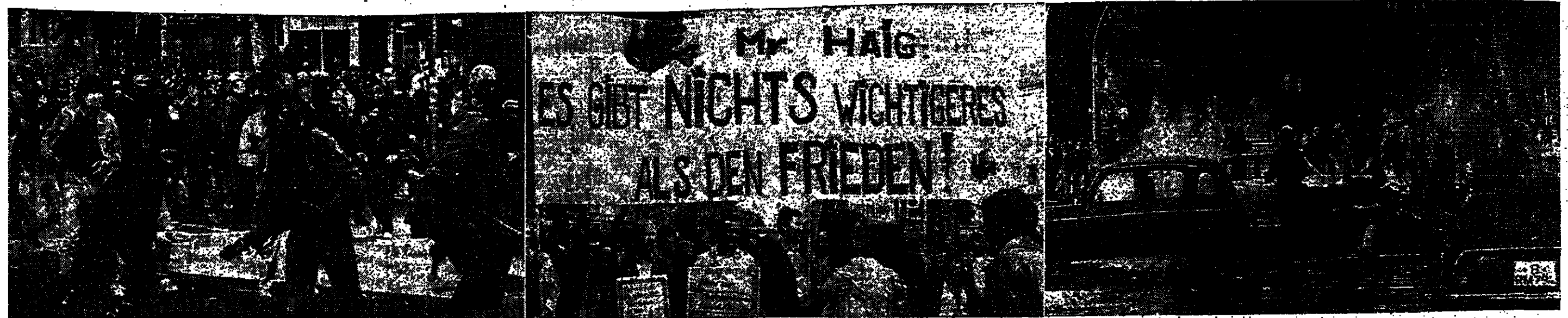
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EUROPEAN NEWS



Haig turns the other cheek in Berlin

Roger Boyes in Bonn explores the growing W. German peace movement

U.S. STATE Department speechwriters, a troubled band, were recently given a complex brief. It was to draw up a major policy speech for Mr Alexander Haig, Secretary of State, to be delivered in Berlin, expressing the usual Kennedy-like commitment to the city, attacking Soviet military power and extolling virtues of Nato.

For good measure a quotation from Voltaire was added, at a demonstration of U.S. tolerance towards Germany's anti-missile movement. "I disagree with what you say," said Haig-Voltaire, "But I will defend to the death your right to say it." A few days later, terrorists tried to kill a senior U.S. General in Heidelberg, and yesterday an explosive was found strapped to the tracks of a U.S. railway supply route near Frankfurt.

Yet there is a definite frontier between inter-governmental differences and the peace movement. A strong majority in the coalition still favours the stationing of U.S. missiles in West Germany, though many hope that negotiations between Washington and Moscow will

make them unnecessary. There is concern at the high U.S. interest rates, but also a growing awareness that not much can be done about them. There is bickering over the level of West German defence spending and there is a fundamental difference about the significance of East-West trade and foreign aid.

These nuances and shades in the coalition dialogue become crude stereotypes by the time they percolate through to the "peace movement". Suddenly it is U.S. not Soviet missiles that threaten West Germany. The protesters argue that the U.S. is to blame for making West Germany a Soviet target because its Pershing and Cruise missiles directly threaten the Soviet Union.

But it would be wrong to think of the peace movement as an agglomeration of left-wing and church groups—as a dupe of Soviet foreign policy. The movement is more of a reflection of a new generation that sees its welfare state induced values under threat, feels exposed and wants to minimise

risk of nuclear destruction. This means opposition to some technological change, above all nuclear power, opposing all forms of social welfare cuts and opposing nuclear weapons.

The paradoxes do not end there. In Bonn, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, and other party leaders stressed the importance of Nato and U.S. West German friendship, yet in Rome last week Herr Schmidt criticised U.S. interest rates and lack of consultation before the Reagan Administration decided to go ahead with neutron warhead production.

In 1977, the Bonn Government criticised the U.S. for not taking into account the Soviet build-up of medium range nuclear weapons in Europe. Now large portions of the ruling Social Democratic Party are against stationing new U.S. missiles in West Germany to

WEST GERMAN terrorists yesterday tried to blow up a U.S. supply train in the military section of Frankfurt's Rhein-Main airport, Roger Boyes reports from Bonn. Police said they had discovered two time bombs but managed to defuse them early on Wednesday morning.

The move follows an assassination attempt on General

Frederick Kroesen, Supreme Commander of American ground forces in Europe.

The terrorist group Red Army Faction, the successors to the Baader-Meinhof gang, has claimed responsibility for the attempt on Gen. Kroesen's life. U.S. military police are working on the assumption that the bomb is also the work of the group.

There is also a feeling in the

movement that many of the world's problems are out of the control of the West German Government. Multinationals determine the level of pollution, the health of the West German economy. This leads to estrangement between the electorate and established political parties. That mood, however, does not stretch to terrorism. While it might provide sufficient sympathisers to feed and shelter the dozen hard-core terrorists now on the run, the movement can hardly be described as a "breeding ground" as the opposition Christian Democrats claim it is. Although it is true that the student revolt of the late 1960s helped to breed the Baader-Meinhof group, the parallels do not stretch to the 1980s. The current youth movement is more disparate, less student and middle class oriented and has parliamen-

mentary voice in the left wing of the Social Democrats. Nevertheless, the few remaining terrorists clearly want to exploit the social climate. Whereas in the 1970s they murdered West German industrialists, now they are aiming at specific symbols of U.S. power—Ramstein air base, Gen. Kroesen, U.S. supply depots and U.S. transport.

There is little that the West German Government can do about the situation. It can try to press the U.S. to begin talks with Moscow and thus ease the pressure from the peace protesters. But in some ways, it simply makes matters worse, for it gives the impression that the U.S. is dragging its feet on arms control talks and by implication suggests that Moscow is the dove in the super powers' relationship.

However, the Government has

● The pictures above show contrasting reactions to Mr Haig's Berlin visit last weekend. "Nothing is more important than peace," reads the banner (centre). The others show violent demonstrations in which 50,000 people protested against U.S. proposals to site neutron warheads in West Germany.

West German motor industry sees upturn

BY KEVIN DONE IN FRANKFURT

CONFIDENCE is growing in the West German motor industry as its fortunes start to pick up after nearly two years in recession. Demand for new cars has strengthened slowly in both home and West European markets.

Most West German car makers believe that the lowest point in new car registrations was passed in the domestic market in the second quarter of this year. They are optimistic that the biennial Frankfurt International Motor Show, which opens today, will provide an important sales boost that could take new car registrations in 1981 close to last year's level of 2.43m vehicles.

The market had already fallen to a low level in the second half of 1980, so the present gradual upturn is beginning to show through clearly in sales figures for the second half of 1981.

In the months of July and August vehicle production in the Federal Republic regained last year's level at 472,500 units. Output has strengthened on the back of growing order books for cars, while important parts of the commercial vehicles sector are still failing to show any positive signs of moving out of recession.

Car production showed a rise of about 1 per cent to 424,900 vehicles in July/August over the same period a year earlier, whereas output of commercial vehicles showed a further drop of 5 per cent to 47,600.

Dr Gerhard Prinz, chief executive of Daimler-Benz, warned yesterday against hopes of any steep climb

Poland 'salvation' plan

BY CHRISTOPHER BOBINSKI IN WARSAW

POLAND'S demoralised Communist Party is no longer up to the task of running Poland and needs to be helped by representatives of Solidarity and the Catholic church in a temporary "committee of national salvation".

This is the essence of a proposal put forward by Mr Jacek Kuron, a leading dissident and Solidarity adviser, for radical changes in the government of Poland.

Mr Kuron's proposal was discussed during a Solidarity policy meeting in Warsaw last week and published in the Warsaw Solidarity bulletin yesterday.

Mr Kuron argued that such a committee was needed in order to head off the growing risk of direct confrontation between Solidarity and the authorities which the latter would lose, provided there was no outside intervention.

He described the Communist Party and Government as

"totally paralysed" and not able to take any decisions.

Mr Kuron's warning about the dangers of confrontation was echoed by Poland's Roman Catholic bishops yesterday. They issued a statement saying that social tensions had mounted to dangerous heights in recent weeks.

The bishops quoted passages from Pope John Paul's latest encyclical including the phrase "trade union tasks can and should seek to repair everything that is defective in the system of possessing and managing the means of production".

But they tempered this with another quote saying that unions should not play politics, nor have the character of political parties struggling for power.

Mr Kuron's proposal for a committee of national salvation was accompanied by a warning

to avoid anything which "in a significant way would force the Soviet Union to intervene".

He argued, for example, that Solidarity should not force a confrontation on the question of free elections to the Polish Parliament.

"If we demand free national elections today then that is an open call to overthrow the Government," he said, "and that would polarise society which is what the authorities want."

"We must take small steps, struggle for authentic workers' control, free elections to local government," he added.

Another speaker at the meeting, Miss Jadwiga Staniszkis, pointed to growing support among workers for the idea of setting up political parties to rival the Communist Party. But she and Mr Kuron warned of growing apathy and a sense of frustration among the Solidarity rank and file.

Decline in economy continues

By Christopher Bobinski

THE POLISH economy continued to decline last month, according to results published here yesterday.

Industrial production was down by 11.4 per cent compared to August 1980. Wages were up by 28.3 per cent and employment, stayed almost level with a drop of 0.3 per cent.

Exports in August were up by 1.7 per cent, while imports fell by 7.4 per cent compared to last August.

The dock strikes in the second half of August 1980 meant that last year's figures were themselves exceptionally low.

Trade with the West is continuing to drop at an alarming rate. Exports in the January-to-August period this year were down by 22.3 per cent, while imports fell by 24.3 per cent compared to the same month in 1980.

Housing construction fell by about 25 per cent in the first eight months of the year, while capital investments were down by 20 per cent.

Supplies of consumer goods in this period grew by a mere 1.9 per cent at current prices. Given an inflation rate of about 15 per cent, this signifies a drastic drop.

Supplies of washing powder in August fell the most with a drop of 81 per cent compared with last year.

Seam meat supplies, which caused a rash of protest marches at the beginning of the month, were down by 29 per cent during the month. Supplies of vodka fell by 26 per cent, wine by 47 per cent and cigarettes 5.3 per cent.

Despite the low levels of supply, stocks of consumer durable goods were down by 28 per cent, while supplies of food were down by 33 per cent at the end of August compared to the same period in 1980.

Steel crisis threat to Belgian coalition

BY GILES MERRITT IN BRUSSELS

THE DEEPENING crisis in Belgium's steel industry threatens to topple the fragile coalition Government led by Mr Mark Eyskens and to provoke fresh political instability in the country.

As representatives of the major Belgian banks met yesterday with senior government ministers to discuss the future of the giant Cockerill-Sambre steelmaking group, it became clear that the Government now faces a serious dilemma.

The immediate priority is for the Government to obtain emergency funding of about Bfr 50n (867m) to bail out the failing Cockerill-Sambre group.

It is only a little more than two months since the 10 per cent state-owned steelmaking combine was formed through a merger of the Cockerill group of Liege and the Hainaut-Sambre "Triangle" group of the Charleroi area.

The group is losing money at the rate of Bfr 1bn a month. To stave off bankruptcy it requires an immediate cash injection of up to Bfr 1.50n for September alone.

The financial difficulties of the Belgian steel producers are a familiar government problem, but this time the Government appears squeezed between the irreconcilable demands of the domestic banking sector and the requirements of the Paris Socialist as its price for guaranteeing the unity of the Government.

The guarantees being demanded by the banks to cover new loans and existing ones that would together total more than Bfr 300n would in turn involve stiff European Commission demands for restructuring. It is the threat of further heavy losses in the steel plants of French speaking Wallonia that would split the coalition.

According to some calculations inside the Belgian steel industry, the Cockerill-Sambre group will require finance amounting to Bfr 600n between now and 1985 in order to become competitive.

Brussels Commission officials believe that in return for subsidies on such a level the group should cut its installed capacity back to about 0.5m tonnes a year. This was the combined output of Cockerill and Hainaut-Sambre in 1980.

Some economic analysts in the Government privately go further and say that to retain its export markets, which account for 80 per cent of production, the group should slim its capacity to 0.5m tonnes a year to 6m tonnes.

Last weekend the leadership of the Parti Socialiste, which has as its power base the stricken industrial regions of Wallonia, warned that it was not prepared to see any drop in the capacity of Cockerill-Sambre.

Because of the pressures from other EEC governments faced with comparable steel industry crises, it appears certain that Viscount Etienne Davignon, the Belgian member of the EEC Commission who is responsible for industry, must insist on tough restructuring as a condition of a new financial package for Cockerill-Sambre.

Belgian officials are also pointing out that the Brussels Commission is in any case capable of withholding Bfr 11bn in Community loans and grants that are due to Belgium to help cushion the social effects of earlier steel restructuring.



Viscount Etienne Davignon: tough restructuring.

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East Germans warned on union

BY LESLIE COLITT IN BERLIN

THE EAST GERMAN communist leadership has indicated that the independent Solidarity trade union in Poland is the most serious threat ever faced by the communist governments of the Warsaw Pact countries.

Herr Konrad Naumann, first secretary of the East Berlin Communist Party and an influential member of the East German party's ruling Politburo, emphasised the danger from Poland in a tough speech to party "propagandists". Only parts of it were published in the East German press.

The so-called "propagandists" are party activists responsible for carrying top-level thinking to the grass-roots.

East German party officials quoted Herr Naumann as saying that Solidarity was all the more dangerous to the leading role of the Communist Party "because it is a mass movement".

This is the first time a leading member of the East German

Communist Party has even admitted the Polish trade union is a mass organisation, although Herr Naumann added that it had nothing to do with socialist democracy.

Large parts of Herr Naumann's speech were a defence of the dictatorship of the proletariat in the communist countries. East Europeans are normally fairly told that this dictatorship is the pre-condition of a socialist society.

Herr Naumann bitterly attacked what he called the "hostile slogan of political pluralism", which maintained that "the leading role of the party is opposed to democracy".

This, he said, was a "swindle" aimed at "reducing the power of the socialist state".

The length to which Herr Naumann went to condemn both Solidarity and a pluralistic society revealed that the East German Communist Party fears

that these ideas could jump across the Polish border and take hold in East Germany.

There is no indication of widespread support for a free trade union in East Germany, but East German Communist officials would not wait for such developments to take place before condemning them.

In 1968, when Mr Alexander Dubcek, the then First Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, was reforming the country's communist system, his concept of "socialism with a human face" was very popular in East Germany, especially among the young.

East Germans are more critical of developments in Poland, believing they are leading to economic chaos. However, there are many intellectuals in East Germany, although few workers, who look with sympathy on the changes in Poland.

France shows recovery in foreign trade

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN PARIS

FRANCE, MADE a healthy recovery in its foreign trade last month, reversing a steady run of rising deficits to reach a position of near balance.

The Trade Ministry warned yesterday, however, that the August results had to be treated with "prudence" because it was not a typical trading month.

In particular, oil imports showed a sharp decline, falling to Ffr 12.8bn (£1.8bn) against an average of Ffr 13.6bn for each of the three previous months.

Even so, French industrial exports rose substantially to Ffr 9.6bn against a monthly average of Ffr 8.1bn during the previous quarter, with the car and transport sector registering an increase of 23 per cent in overseas sales.

Exports of food products, now being heavily promoted and developed by the French overseas, also rose substantially, reaching Ffr 2.4bn.

The effect of this strong surge in exports was to trim the monthly deficit to Ffr 160m

against Ffr 6.1bn in July and Ffr 4.4bn in August last year. On this seasonally adjusted basis, exports stood at Ffr 53.2bn, and imports at Ffr 53.4bn.

Despite France's continuing problem of paying for its heavy oil import bill, there are hopes of strong overseas equipment sales helping to shore up the trade balance in the rest of the year. The country has also done better, during the first eight months of this year, than in the same period of last year,

running up an overall trade deficit of Ffr 30.9bn against Ffr 40.5bn in 1980.

Separate figures also published yesterday showed a slight fall in the unemployment level from 1,949,000 in August last year to 1,840,000.

The Government refused, however, to give undue prominence to this improvement.

It has been widely forecast that the unemployment level could pass the 2m mark before the end of the year.

Mauroy's investment plea given cool reception

BY DAVID HOUSEGO IN PARIS

THE FRENCH employers' association has given a cool reception to the appeal by Prime Minister M Pierre Mauroy in the National Assembly on Tuesday for higher levels of economic growth and more jobs.

While welcoming the increase in financial help for industry and the Government's emphasis on re-establishing French supremacy in the domestic market, M Francois Ceyrac, head of the employers' federation, said M Mauroy's plan lacked

coherence. He saw a conflict between seeking the support of entrepreneurs for fresh investment while inflicting new taxes. The proposed wealth tax, which would hit owners of small and medium-sized businesses, was being fixed at a level above that in West Germany and ran counter to the Government's goals of encouraging investment and job creation.

He was particularly scathing in his attack on nationalisation

M Ceyrac's remarks are clearly intended to bring pressure on the Government to moderate its Socialist programme. But they are also a blow to the Government which is seeking the more active co-operation of industry.

The Socialist daily newspaper Le Matin described the Government's programme, aimed essentially at bringing down unemployment, as ambitious. But it warned that the administration had already taken a num-

ber of measures to stimulate the economy—so far without much effect.

The Government was up against the same economic problems that faced President Giscard d'Estaing and was making the same appeals for national effort and the ambition.

M Henri Krasucki, head of the Communist CGT union, said the measures needed to be flushed out. The union is the largest in the country.

Hopes for breakthrough in EEC insurance talks

BY JOHN WYLES IN BRUSSELS

BRITISH HOPES of securing EEC agreement by the end of the year on the establishment of a common market in non-life insurance services depend largely on a breakthrough in negotiations by EEC finance ministers here today.

As President of the Council of Ministers, the UK has tabled a compromise designed to satisfy the insistence of several other member states, notably France and West Germany, that they retain rights to authorise the provision of non-life insurance by companies established in other member states.

Both Britain and the Netherlands strongly favour the six-year-old draft directive to establish cross-frontier freedom for non-life insurance services. They have tended to regard the desire to retain some national controls as defensive tactics designed to fend off the power of the British insurance industry.

However, it is conceded that France's desire for cast-iron

guarantees that an open system will not affect its tax revenue is reasonable.

Paris obtains between 1.5 and 2 per cent of its exchange income from a tax on insurance contracts and wants to be sure that a company established outside France would meet its local tax requirements.

Technical talks at official level are now stalled and are in need of a political breakthrough from today's meeting. However, this will be the third time ministers have discussed the issue this year and not enough political momentum has been generated to ensure passage of the directive by the end of the year.

Even if the vexed question of authorisation is quickly settled, lesser but still important issues will remain to be agreed.

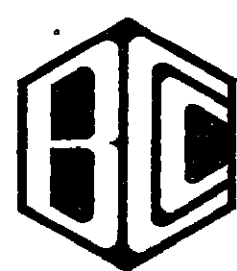
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Japanese renew attack on U.S. interest rates

BY CHARLES SMITH, FAR EAST EDITOR IN TOKYO

JAPAN renewed its attack on high U.S. interest rates yesterday. Mr. Masaru Maekawa, governor of the Bank of Japan, told foreign businessmen that U.S. interest rates were creating serious problems for the Japanese economy.

The problems include upward pressure on Japan's long-term interest rates when the Government wants to pursue an easy money policy to stimulate domestic demand. The gap of about 10 per cent between U.S. and Japanese short-term rates was creating "apprehension" about the level of overseas capital inflow to Japan.

The governor said he was convinced that some short-term money had already left the country. "We never know when a major outflow of funds might occur, although so far there is no sign of this happening."

It was understandable for the U.S. to want to restrict its money supply given U.S. inflation levels and the underlying strength of the economy. However, U.S. interest rates had passed the limit that other industrial countries could tolerate. Talk in some European countries of a dual interest structure, with international rates at one level and domestic rates lower, was "impractical" but indicated the strains being caused.

Mr. Maekawa said he favoured a strong dollar, partly because dollar weakness was an underlying cause of the two oil crises. However, the recent dollar rate against the yen had been "higher than desirable." He "could not comprehend" last month's sudden softening of the yen when it slipped to 247 to the dollar.

The Bank of Japan was prepared to intervene on the market to discourage the "excessive swings"—like that of August—inevitable in a floating rate system.

Kurdish guerrillas kill Iranian general

BY TERRY POVEY IN TEHRAN

AN IRANIAN army general has been killed by Kurdish guerrillas in continued fighting in the west. Government forces plan to take control of as much of the area as possible before the long, harsh winter sets in, and any guerrilla counter-attack takes place.

Gen. Ali Asghar Hatemi, deputy commander of the 28th Division based in Sanandaj, the capital of Kurdistan province, was the most senior serving army officer to die in the counter-insurgency campaign since it began shortly after the Islamic revolution two and a half years ago.

A major element in the government campaign is a two-pronged attack from north and south on the area between Lake

Orumieh and the Turkish border.

The town of Oshnovieh, one of only two under guerrilla control, has just been retaken by government forces. Local government officials have appealed to the people to "return to their homes" and "make up for their past mistakes."

Clashes throughout the Kurdish region appear from the limited reports in the Tehran Press to have grown considerably in the last two weeks. However, telephone connections to the region have been severed, and foreign journalists banned from entering it. It has not been possible to verify independently claims made by either the Government or Kurds.

Begin silent over 'arms deal pressure' from Haig

BY DAVID LENNON IN TEL AVIV

MR MENACHEM BEGIN, Israel's Prime Minister, yesterday refused to comment on reports that Mr. Alexander Haig, U.S. Secretary of State, urged him to moderate his criticism of the U.S.-Saudi Arabia arms deal when they held a surprise meeting at Kennedy Airport.

Mr. Begin's flight home was delayed for two hours for the meeting. Israeli correspondents in the U.S. said Mr. Haig was ordered by President Reagan to protest against the Israeli leader's public statements opposing the arms deal that includes Awaq advanced warning aircraft.

On arrival at Ben Gurion air-

port, Mr. Begin said the talks were private, but he insisted that "there is no confrontation... we are friends and allies and between friends and allies sometimes there may be differences of opinion."

The Israeli opposition parties have criticised Mr. Begin for not fighting strongly enough against the arms deal. They accused him of selling out in exchange for an as yet undefined agreement to intensify strategic co-operation.

The Premier promised to provide more details of his talks in Washington next Monday when the Knesset debates an opposition censure motion of his handling of the discussions.

Australian disputes erupt

BY PATRICIA NEWBY IN CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN domestic oil supplies and oil exports are being threatened by two new water-front pay disputes which have erupted scarcely a fortnight after the end of several disputes which delayed 80 ships around the country.

At least 50 ships are now being hit by a ban imposed 12 days ago on Australian vessels by marine engineers in support of a 10 per cent pay claim and improved conditions.

The ban has severely disrupted transport of oil from Australia's main oilfields in the Bass Strait between the mainland and Tasmania to oil refineries around the country.

Australia's biggest refinery, at Kurnell near Sydney, has cut production and petrol is now being rationed in New South Wales. Industry is being particularly badly hit because supplies of many goods were low following last month's wave of industrial trouble on the water-front.

Meanwhile coal exports from the Utah mines in Queensland are being threatened by a dispute involving crew who ferry pilots to ships waiting to berth at the Hay Point coal loader, which serves the Utah mines. The ferry crews are seeking an allowance of A\$6,000 a year to bring them into line with tug crews.

Indian opposition parties walk out

BY K. K. SHARMA IN NEW DELHI

THE ENTIRE opposition in the Lok Sabha (Lower House of Parliament) yesterday walked out in anger after the Speaker ruled out several attempts to force a Parliamentary investigation against the Finance Minister, Mr. R. Venkataraman.

Privilege motions were raised against the Minister on the grounds that he had misled the Indian Parliament by saying Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had not given her consent to the naming of a controversial trust after her.

The trust, one of many formed by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra State, Mr. A. R. Antulay, was allegedly used illegally, to raise funds for various purposes, including finances for Mrs. Gandhi's ruling Congress Party.

There has been anger in both Houses of Parliament since Mr. Antulay admitted in the Maharashtra Legislature that he had formed the trusts and had encouraged businessmen and

others to contribute to them in return for favours such as tax exemptions and preferential distribution of such scarce items as cement.

The Speaker yesterday ruled out the opposition privilege motions, saying that on assessing the evidence presented by the opposition he found that Mrs. Gandhi had merely agreed to "associate" herself with the trust and not become its "co-partner" as claimed—a distinction that infuriated the opposition.

Acceptance of the privilege motion would have forced a thorough parliamentary investigation into the entire issue, including the manner and purpose for which the funds were raised for the trusts. This could have embarrassed Mrs. Gandhi and her party.

While embarrassment has been temporarily averted (a privilege motion against the



Nujoma: appeal for arms

Swapo warns of 'long war'

BY QUENTIN PEEL, AFRICA EDITOR

MR SAM NUJOMA, president of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), has appealed for wider international support and more sophisticated weapons, including anti-aircraft missiles, following South Africa's invasion of southern Angola.

In an interview with the Financial Times, he warned that Swapo was prepared for a protracted war in Namibia (South-West Africa) against South African forces, in spite of Western and United Nations' efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement there.

"The war in Namibia has reached a very critical stage," Mr. Nujoma said at his headquarters in Angola's capital, Luanda. "Up to now we have been fighting a basic guerrilla war. Now we need more sophisticated weapons to be able to bring down enemy jet fighters."

Swapo would accept weapons from any source, he said, although hitherto its supplies have come from Eastern bloc and African countries. Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles, especially the hand-held Sam-7,

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, West Germany's Foreign Minister, yesterday condemned South Africa's invasion of Angola, and said it had "dealt a heavy blow" to Western efforts to negotiate a solution to the conflict over South-West Africa. AP reports from Bonn. He made his remarks during a visit by Mr. Paulo Teixeira Jorge, Angola's Foreign Minister.

used by guerrillas in Zimbabwe, would be the most readily available.

Mr. Nujoma said South Africa's invasion of Angola, ostensibly aimed at Swapo bases and supply lines, was "a naked aggression against Swapo—nothing to do with Angola." South Africa appeared to be trying to install UNITA, the dissident Angolan guerrilla movement in Cunene province, to create a buffer zone on Namibia's border. He appealed

for humanitarian aid for fleeing Namibian refugees.

Any indications that South Africa was ready to agree to the UN settlement plan for Namibia were "just manoeuvres to maintain Namibia under its grip. They are going ahead with their internal settlement. We are prepared to fight a protracted armed struggle."

Mr. Nujoma said Swapo stood by its acceptance of the UN settlement plan, based on Security Council Resolution 435, but saw no need for any amendments to meet South African objections. Human rights in the territory would be guaranteed by UN supervision.

"I think there is manoeuvring behind the scenes, particularly by the Reagan Administration, to undermine the authority of the UN," he said. Diplomats in Luanda believe Swapo remains relatively weak militarily with perhaps 200 to 300 active guerrillas, although several thousands have received rudimentary training.

The diplomats estimate the number of Namibian civilian refugees in Angola at 50,000.

Pretoria to tighten residential segregation

BY BERNARD SIMON IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA is to introduce legislation early next year enabling the Government to enforce residential segregation more strictly, Mr. S. F. Kotze, the Minister of Community Development, has said.

His statement is an apparent attempt to mollify groups of middle and lower-income whites protesting against the increasing number of coloured (mixed race) and Indian families who have quietly moved into "white" suburbs, mainly in Johannesburg, in recent years.

It is estimated that 10,000 are

living illegally in "white" residential areas in Johannesburg alone. Most moved there because of an acute housing shortage in suburbs zoned for coloureds and Indians. Landlords have rented flats and houses to coloured, Indian and black families, partly because they have been unable to find white tenants. Much of the accommodation is in decaying suburbs near the city centre.

The authorities charged 600 people last year with contravening the Group Areas Act, which provides for residential segregation and is one of the cornerstones of the National Party Government's race policies. Charges against some have been dropped, but the others are to appear in court soon.

In terms of the Act, the authorities require a court order to evict families living in an area zoned for another racial group. Mr. Kotze said the proposed legislation will aim to overcome "time-consuming" legal proceedings. The Act is likely to be amended to abolish the requirement for a court order.

Mr. Kotze's announcement has been condemned by coloured and Indian families living in "white" suburbs. Mr. Cassim

Saloojee, chairman of the Action Committee to Stop Evictions, said "blacks have as much right to live in centre city areas as whites."

There is speculation Mr. Kotze's announcement may have been timed to coincide with the start of campaigning for next March's municipal elections in Johannesburg.

The President's Council, an advisory body set up by the Government last year, has recommended that the authorities reverse their decision to declare District Six in Cape Town and Pageview in Johannesburg "white" group areas.

Zimbabwe slowdown predicted

By Our Salisbury Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT-owned Zimbank, Zimbabwe's second largest banking group, yesterday predicted a slowdown in 1981 from the remarkable 12.8 per cent rise in GNP recorded in 1980, accompanied by higher rate of inflation and emigration.

In its September economic bulletin, Zimbank said the next year would provide "a major test" of economic management.

Tarable capacity of Zimbabwe's economy was nearing its limit, and the 37 per cent growth rate of public spending could not be maintained if the budget deficit were to be kept in check.

The bank said manufacturing production is unlikely to maintain the 13 per cent growth rate of the first five months of this year because of transport difficulties and a lack of skilled manpower, and adequate import quotas. It warned there may be some reduction in allocations for low-priority imports.

Zimbank said full development of Zimbabwe's "undoubted potential" for greatly increased metal and mineral output depends mainly on the Government's ability to create a favourable investment climate.

The withdrawal of tax concessions in the budget was not well received in the industry and it is not yet clear how the planned minerals marketing agency would affect the industry.

Zimbank warned that with the recent budget increases in indirect taxes, increased government spending and retail sales outpacing domestic production in services industries, the inflation rate was likely to accelerate and it predicted an increase in government-imposed price controls.

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WORLD TRADE NEWS

IFC PUBLISHES ANNUAL REPORT TODAY

Third World 'needs more equity investment'

BY DAVID BUCHAN IN WASHINGTON

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES need for equity investment is growing because of their high level of external debt and the high cost of borrowing, according to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) which publishes its annual report today.

The IFC is the World Bank affiliate specialising in making equity and loan assistance to private sector ventures in the Third World. As of July 31, the end of its 1981 fiscal year and the 25th year of its operation, the IFC's loan and equity portfolio totalled \$1.6bn. (\$942m) in 314 companies in over 70 developing countries.

In its latest report, the IFC sees a water-thin silver lining in developments that depress the World Bank. Mounting balance of payments pressures and depreciating exchange rates

have kept the Third World's labour costs low. The Corporation claims that this factor, plus the general rise in energy costs, have given many developing countries whose goods are produced more by labour than by energy, a competitive edge in the world market.

The IFC sees a growing requirement in the Third World for its private sector services. So do some of its most important shareholders, particularly the U.S., which has criticised the World Bank itself for devoting too much concessional aid to inefficient public sectors.

Releasing the report, Mr Hans Wuttke, the IFC's executive vice-president, expressed his satisfaction that the corporation was getting a favourable "wind" from the Reagan Administration. Similar support

for the IFC has come from Mr A. W. Clausen, the former Bank of America chief who took over from Mr Robert McNamara as World Bank president in July.

In 1980-81 the IFC supported 56 projects with an equity and loan commitment value of \$810m, up from \$681m in 1979-1980. But net earnings went slightly down to \$19.5m from \$20.7m, because the corporation set aside a greater amount as reserves against losses.

In addition to this precautionary measure, the IFC noted that several of the companies it invested in cut dividends, while the Corporation realised less than it hoped in capital gains because of the depressed capital markets in some developing countries.

A basic IFC strategy is to take an equity stake in a new venture and then try to sell it

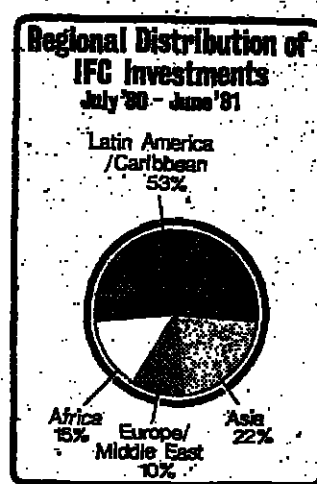
off to private investors in the country once the venture is on its feet.

Mr Wuttke said the IFC was making a special effort to help low-income African countries.

David Tonge adds: The IFC could move into new directions and help developing countries avoid the vagaries and high costs of the Euro-market. This is one of the options being considered in a general review of the IFC's activities, according to Mr Richard W. Richardson, the Director of the Corporate Planning Department of the IFC.

One scheme which the IFC believes could act as a model is the \$120m Mexico Fund launched three months ago.

This was placed by a group of over 30 banks with lead managers including Merrill Lynch and Salomon Brothers.



It is now traded on New York and London with the proceeds being invested in securities in Mexico.

Nigerian fertiliser plant to go ahead

By Mark Webster in Lagos

A CONSORTIUM led by M. W. Kellogg of the U.S. has signed a contract to build Nigeria's first giant fertiliser plant after nearly two years of bitter political infighting.

The final cost of the complex has been put officially at Naira 300m (\$250m), but unofficial estimates put the total at \$700m (\$530m). The value of the Kellogg consortium contract has not been announced.

The other companies involved are Jacob Engineering of the U.S., Kawasaki Heavy Engineering, the Nishio Iwai Corporation, and the Morubeni Corporation.

The financing for the \$400m offshore component of the complex has been provided by the U.S. Export-Import Bank, the Japanese Export-Import Bank of Japan, and a loan from the World Bank. Local banks will furnish the difference.

The plant will produce 700,000 tonnes of fertiliser when working at full capacity, and should make Nigeria largely self-sufficient in fertiliser by 1986.

At present, Nigeria imports nearly 1m tonnes of fertiliser a year. The Government estimates that consumption should rise to more than 10m tonnes because farmers are gradually learning the importance of nutrients for the soil.

The complex will be sited in eastern Nigeria and will consist of an ammonia plant, a urea unit and a compound fertiliser facility.

The original contract was negotiated by Kellogg with the previous military government. But it was one of many reviewed when the civilians came to power last year because they thought the military had been too quick to arrange the deal.

Since then, the Kellogg contract has become something of a "cause célèbre" in Nigeria and has been the subject of widespread debate in the Houses of Assembly.

Kellogg has consistently denied any impropriety in the contract's award — it said that its first proposals were submitted in 1979 and it won the deal against stiff opposition.

Italy 'poised to join Soviet gas pipeline project'

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

ITALY appears to have decided to participate in the proposed giant pipeline project carrying Siberian natural gas to Western Europe, which Moscow aims to have on stream by 1985.

Officials yesterday declined to confirm reports here that the Rome Government had given its definitive blessing to Italy's taking delivery of between 4bn and 8bn cubic metres of gas over a 25-year period, starting in spring 1985.

However, they did confirm that the complex negotiations between the Italian and Soviet sides have taken a turn for the better. Moreover, given the apparent determination of other possible participants, most notably West Germany, to go ahead.

It would be surprising if Italy were to let slip an opportunity to secure important export orders connected with the construction of the pipeline.

According to news reports, which are unconfirmed, Rome has made an initial participation proposal worth \$500m (\$263m) which could rise later.

In fact the main problems have been less political than purchases of Siberian gas could dangerously increase Italy's dependence on the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, when the country is forecast to

have a methane shortage of between 7bn and 8bn cubic metres a year — than economic and financial.

A principal source of concern has been the financing of the share of the construction work which originally was to have been shouldered by Italy — put at between \$2.5bn and \$3bn.

Some economic officials are known to have had doubts about the feasibility of extending cheap credits on such a scale when the pressures on Italian public sector finance are likely to be greater than ever.

This may explain the difference between the original figure and the reduced offer of \$500m.

Separate price negotiations are being conducted by ENI, the state energy corporation, which is also conducting discussions with Algeria on the cost of the gas due to come on stream from that country via the trans-mediterranean pipeline project linking Sicily with North Africa.

Both sides held further talks recently, but to no avail.

Negotiations have been broken off amid the impression that the Italian side is waiting to see the outcome of similar price talks between Algeria and Paris.

Franco-German consortium wins £175m S. Africa order

BY BERNARD SIMON IN JOHANNESBURG

A CONSORTIUM OF MAN of West Germany and Alstom Atlantique of France has been awarded a \$300m (£175m) turbine generator contract by the South African Electricity Supply Commission (Escom).

The contract for six 600 MW turbines, is for the Matimba coal-fired power station, to be built in the north-western

Transvaal.

A contract for the power station's boilers was awarded last month to another Franco-German consortium, which included a Alstom subsidiary, Stein Industrie.

Both Alstom and MAN have been regular suppliers to Escom in the past, and Alstom is among the leading contractors

for South Africa's first nuclear power station, currently under construction near Cape Town.

Escom said that the turbines will be financed by export credits and foreign loans. Banque de l'Indochine et de Suez is the leading bank for financing the French portion of both the boilers and turbines for Matimba. It is believed that

Bayerische Vereinsbank is playing a major role for the German side of the consortium.

Escom is expected to announce soon the successful tender for the supply of turbines for another large power station, known as Station C.

Nine companies have submitted bids, and Westinghouse of the U.S. is understood to be a

front-runner for the contract.

Bo-Kalis Westminster, the Dutch construction group, has announced that a British operating company, Land and Marine Engineering (Overseas), has won a £18m contract to supply an effluent pipeline to the Nigerian National Paper Manufacturing Company.

Why a row is brewing over U.S. steel trigger prices

BY PAUL CHESHERIGHT, WORLD TRADE EDITOR

TRADE RELATIONS between the U.S., EEC and Japan may soon be buffeted by another dispute in the steel industry, centred on the question of access to the U.S. market, now controlled by the trigger price mechanism (TPM).

"Recently trigger prices have been on the high side, and they are leading to a new crisis," writes Prof. Kiyoshi Kawahito in a new study published today.

The TPM establishes a minimum price for U.S. steel imports. It is based on U.S. estimates of Japanese costs and is revised to take into account changes in the Japanese industry and dollar-yen movements.

Sales into the U.S. beneath the trigger price automatically set off dumping investigations.

Imports have been increasing: they took 20 per cent of the market in July and 16.7 per cent over the first seven months of the year.

The rise of the dollar has made EEC producer costs relatively less and some groups have been seeking pre-clearance from the U.S. to sell beneath the trigger price.

The rise in imports during July was almost solely attributable to increased EEC sales, and this has led to uneasiness in the U.S. The Commerce Department is investigating surges

in imports of some special products, while U.S. producers are gathering details about subsidies in the EEC, possibly with a view to pressing for the application of countervailing duties.

Prof. Kawahito, a steel economist at Middle Tennessee State University, thinks sympathetic Japanese producers are unlikely to exacerbate the situation.

But he adds, "if the pre-clearance becomes widespread, they may decide to challenge the TPM which, in my view, has consistently overstated Japanese costs, or some of them may seek pre-clearance on the grounds that their costs are lower than the Japanese steel

industry average."

There is the possibility, then, that the system of protection embodied in the TPM may collapse for the second time since a relief programme was introduced for American producers in 1977.

If the U.S. must restrict steel imports, Prof. Kawahito thinks that short-term quotas might be a better alternative. They could be combined with control of American producer prices.

Apart from the possible legal complication, the major obstacle to this alternative is embarrasment.

The American Iron and Steel Institute said in July that the

industry had been spending less than half the amount on modernisation needed to keep pace with Japanese producers.

Since last November it has announced investment plans worth \$3.5bn.

But Prof. Kawahito doubts whether the U.S. industry will ever become internationally competitive. Neither it nor the EEC will find it easy to cover with higher productivity the enormous wage gap between them and new producers.

"Japanese Steel, in the American Market," article in *The World Economy*, Basil Blackwell for the Trade Policy Research Centre, London.

Libyan airline signs \$210m Airbus deal

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

LIBYA'S State airline, Libyan Arab Airlines, has signed a contract with the European Airbus Industrie group for 10 Airbus aircraft worth an estimated \$210m (\$120m).

The deal was announced by the Libyan official news agency, Jana, in Tripoli.

No details of the contract have been revealed but it is understood that the 10 aircraft include a number of the 250-seat A-300s and also the smaller 200-seat A-310 Airbus.

Deliveries are due to start next year and to be continued at the rate of two aircraft a year over the next five years.

Jana said that the contract with Airbus Industrie was part of a programme to develop the domestic and international services of Libyan Arab Airlines, which planned to be carrying 9.6m passengers a year, against 1.6m at present by the end of the five-year delivery period.

The Libyan deal brings total orders and options for Airbus of all versions to date to 529.

This includes the 50 aircraft of the planned 150-seater A-320 type, which Air France said in the summer it intended to buy.

The total number of A-300s and A-310s ordered and optioned to date is 478.

S. Korea's prospects 'look healthy'

BY A CORRESPONDENT IN BRUSSELS

SOUTH KOREA'S economic prospects for the 1980s look healthy, with growth estimated at 7 to 8 per cent a year. The Government's fifth five-year plan (1982-86) is intended to reduce state involvement in the economy, and to open up Korea to foreign investment and imports.

This was the message given by Korean speakers at the FT-sponsored Euro-Korean symposium which started yesterday in Brussels.

The two-day conference is also aimed at increasing links between South Korean and European businessmen (160 businessmen were registered to attend). Trade relations between the EEC and South Korea are troubled at present. In 1980, the EEC's trade deficit with South Korea totalled 1bn ecus.

South Korea has been criticised for its trading strategies towards Europe. Its exports to the Community of mainly footwear, textiles and electronics are said to have contributed to the decline of the EEC's traditional industries. However, Mr Suh-Suk Jeon, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, told the symposium that this criticism was a "misunderstanding" of Korean policies. Korea's trade patterns with Europe (Korea imports mainly machinery and chemicals) was highly complementary.

In fact, he said, Korea's imports from Europe have risen at a faster rate than its exports to Europe. Between 1974 and 1979 Korean exports to Europe rose at an annual average rate of 36 per cent, while her imports from Europe rose on

average by 41 per cent a year.

The minister also criticised Europe's policies towards newly industrialised countries (NICs), such as South Korea. He gave examples of reductions in the scope of the EEC's Generalised System of Preferences and the current "differentiations debate" — the difference between newly-developed and developing countries — at the negotiations for the renewal of the multi-fibre arrangements.

Speakers stressed that South Korea has had its own international problems — 1978-79 was a boom period but from the latter half of 1979, real gross national product growth was reduced from 6.4 per cent to -5.7 per cent in 1980. The inflation rate rose to 18 per cent and 29 per cent in 1979 and 1980 respectively, and the current account deficit amounted to \$2.2bn in 1979 and \$5.3bn in 1980.

According to Mr Kang Kyung Shik, South Korea's Assistant Minister of Economic Planning, the country's five-year plan is aimed to promote stability, efficiency and balance in the economy. This is to be achieved partly by measures to reduce inflation to below 10 per cent — the Government plans to limit annual growth in the money supply to 18 per cent.

Export promotions will still be the driving force of South Korea's economy but the domestic market is to be opened wider for overseas competition.

The government plans to overhaul the economic management system and to further liberalise imports and conditions for the foreign direct investments. Joint ventures between South Korea and

European concerns are to be encouraged, particularly for the manufacture of components or parts in the machinery and electronics industries.

Banking will also be an area for joint ventures, the chairman and president of the Korea Exchange Bank Mr Cheon Taik Chung, told the symposium. The

criteria for authorising new banks to enter Korea will become more flexible, he said.

He added that the role of European institutions in financial co-operation had expanded dramatically in recent years. Some 20 Korean branches and offices operate in the EEC and 12 EEC banks are present in Korea.

While the Koreans had a fairly favourable forecast to give of their economic growth the EEC side, represented today by Viscount Etienne Davignon, the EEC Commissioner for Industry and Energy, had a gloomier story to tell.

The Commissioner said the Community had two "conflicting goals." It had to make every effort to ensure that its open trading system was maintained and strengthened. But the EEC "could not shut its eyes" to the strains to society

caused by a too-rapid rundown of traditional industrial sectors.

The Commissioner gave the example of textiles, footwear and steel sectors in the EEC where unemployment rose significantly between 1973 and 1979. In the case of shipbuilding, South Korea's share of the world market more than doubled, whereas the EEC's share declined during that period from 27 per cent to 19 per cent, he said.

Positive developments in EEC-South Korea trade were evoked by M Urbain, Belgium's Minister for External Trade, and M J. C. Leny, the General Manager for Framatome of France.

Belgium and Luxembourg are the only two EEC member States to have a trading surplus with South Korea, the minister said. The balance was \$34.5m in their favour in 1980. He said, Belgian firms are well known in Seoul, Korea's capital (such as ADB, Tractiionnel, Agfa-Gevaert and LVD) and Belgian banks, such as Societe Generale de Banque and Banque Bruxelles Lambert are considering opening branches in the capital.

One measure of Belgian success in South Korea, the minister said was the contract awarded in 1979 to Bell Telephone of Belgium to modernise the country's telephone system.

M Leny described the contract signed between Framatome and Cogema of France with a "springboard" for increased collaboration with France and Korea in the nuclear field.

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Nato allies back Haig on nuclear arms talks

By GILES MERRITT IN BRUSSELS

SENIOR U.S. Government officials said yesterday that Mr Alexander Haig, U.S. Secretary of State, will have the support of the European allies when he meets Mr Andrei Gromyko, Soviet Foreign Minister, at the UN next week to discuss nuclear arms limitation talks. They were speaking following a big Nato meeting in Brussels yesterday.

Doubts over the stern tactics likely to be adopted by the Reagan Administration at the negotiations, now expected to open in Geneva by the end of November or early December, have been voiced by a number of Nato's European allies.

But after a meeting in Brussels of the alliance's Special Consultative Group, U.S. officials said they were "quite pleased and happy" with the reaction of European allies to the outline given of the U.S. approach to the forthcoming talks.

The Special Consultative Group session, chaired by Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, U.S. Under-Secretary of State, is understood to have provided a number of Nato's European allies with their first clear-cut

indication of the stance that the U.S. intends to adopt at the renewed disarmament talks with the Soviet Union.

The U.S. position continues to be weakened by the failure of both Belgium and The Netherlands to agree to the siting of new Cruise missiles on their territory as part of the alliance's theatre nuclear force modernisation programme.

The issue of their accepting the new generation missiles to meet Nato's end-1983 timetable is certain to dominate the alliance's next ministerial meeting in Brussels in December.

The deployment of Cruise and Pershing-II missiles in line with the original theatre targets remains an important bargaining counter for the U.S. at the scheduled Geneva talks.

The U.S. officials suggested yesterday, however, that Washington is still confident that the theatre nuclear force will in due course receive the full support of all European allies.

But in any case, the U.S. believes that existing plans for the deployment of Cruise missiles have "enough elements to make the theatre nuclear force credible."

Trudeau to meet premiers on economy

By Jim Rusk in Ottawa

CANADA'S Prime Minister, Mr Pierre Trudeau, has agreed to meet the premiers of the 10 provinces to discuss the state of the Canadian economy, but only after the Federal Government has presented its Budget in mid-October.

For several months, a number of the premiers have been pressing for a First Ministers' meeting on the economy.

Mr Trudeau will meet British Columbia's Premier Mr William Bennett, chairman of the Premiers' Conference, in Ottawa on September 24, to discuss the agenda, format, and timing of the meeting.

The agenda will then be fleshed out at a meeting of the Federal and provincial Finance Ministers in early October.

Mr Trudeau acknowledged that the post-Budget timing of the meeting, probably in late November or early December, could present problems for the premiers.

But he said the Government had decided that a Budget shortly after Parliament reconvenes on October 14 "was a prerequisite to establishing the climate of confidence necessary to the success of any longer-term recovery plan."

Washington resents Canada's foreign investment policy, writes David Buchan

Reagan's sabre-rattling fails to shake Trudeau

THE U.S. and Canada are on a collision course over energy and foreign investment policy that could disrupt the two countries' enormous \$75bn (\$48.1bn) a year bilateral trade.

Talks were held in Washington yesterday between Mr Allan MacEachen, the Canadian deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, and Mr Donald Regan, the U.S. Treasury Secretary, but no immediate resolution was expected from this meeting, or from that between their bosses, President Reagan and Prime Minister Trudeau, on Friday at the opening of the Gerald Ford Library in Michigan.

The Trudeau Government is sticking fast to the broad thrust of its National Energy Programme (NEP) to reduce foreign (mainly U.S.) ownership of Canadian energy from more than 70 per cent to 50 per cent by 1990, while maintaining that its general foreign investment policy does not discriminate against the U.S.

Mr Mark MacGuigan, Canada's Foreign Minister, this week said that Canadians should not lose their nerve at U.S. "sabre rattling."

This has left the ball in the court of the Reagan Administration, which is now assembling its counter-attack urged on by many in congress late at their northern neighbours. Possible means of retaliation mentioned by the Reagan Administration

range from closing U.S. federal lands to Canadian energy and mining companies to altering the "auto pact" which governs the huge free trade in cars across their border.

The row was brought to the boil by recent Canadian take-over bids for U.S. companies, such as the (unsuccessful) Seagrams offer for Conoco. Canadian officials argue that if there are no more such bids, U.S. sentiment will simmer down. For this, and balance-of-payments reasons, Mr MacEachen recently directed Canadian banks to go easy on financing U.S. acquisitions.

U.S. officials say this is wishful thinking. They point out that some U.S. complaints about Canadian policy are of longer standing and will not go away so easily. The U.S. has never warmed to Canada's Foreign Investment Review Agency (FIRA), set up in 1974 to screen out incoming investment not considered of "significant benefit" to Canada. For several years, FIRA's operation was regarded as fairly harmless—Canadians say FIRA has approved more than 90 per cent of all investment applications.

But in recent months FIRA, the U.S. claims, has overstepped legitimate bounds by requiring companies setting up in Canada to buy Canadian goods and equipment. The U.S. claims this "trade" aspect of Canadian



Pierre Trudeau: economic nationalism

investment policy violates article 3 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)—forbidding discrimination—and is legally the weakest link in Canadian policy. The U.S. is suggesting that Canada should use other means if it feels its goods are being "overlooked" by foreign firms. Public tender bids, for instance, could be required to grant Canadian goods a fair hearing.

To bolster its case, the Reagan Administration has sent all big U.S. companies doing

business in or with Canada a questionnaire about such possible discrimination. White House trade officials say the evidence may not be in until next year.

Washington says officially it has no quarrel with "Canadianisation" of energy, just the way it is practised. In fact, the complaint is heard in the Administration and on Capitol Hill, that since FIRA has said it will accept no further U.S. oil and gas investment in Canada, U.S. companies have no right of takeover retaliation.

The U.S. is unhappy about the provisions of the NEP which would close Canadian Government lands to non-Canadian controlled energy firms, give government tax credits for exploration keyed to the level of Canadian ownership in a company, and require the transfer of some energy funds to the Ottawa Government on favourable terms.

One happier note has been the Reagan Administration's welcome for Ottawa's recent agreement with Alberta giving the main energy-producing province a higher price for its oil. The U.S., with a degree of self-righteousness, has been urging Canada to follow its example towards higher, Opec-related oil prices. But it is not clear that the new pricing agreement will make U.S. companies still operating in Canada much happier, since most of the increase

is to go in tax to Ottawa and Alberta.

"Each step the Canadians take reduces the pressure to resolve the rest of U.S.-Canadian problems," a Reagan aide said this week. But the Trudeau Government, which may believe economic nationalism to be a useful rallying point amidst all its other problems, does not seem greatly inclined towards further accommodation of the U.S. Its grievances with the U.S., such as fishing rights and acid rain pollution, get scant attention south of the border.

What Congress has also done this summer is to galvanise the Reagan Administration into looking at all possible means of retaliation against Canada. Many of these are either too draconian or counter-productive, for the Administration to contemplate now. Scrapping the "auto pact," for instance, would hurt the U.S., with its present surplus in this bilateral sector, more than Canada.

"Probably all the retaliation we could take would have less impact than what the Canadians are doing to themselves," a White House trade official said. He was referring to the fact that Canadian takeovers of U.S. companies, with the resulting flow of U.S. capital out of Canada, helped send the Canadian dollar down to a 50-year low this summer against the U.S. currency.

Largest fall in industrial output since last year

By REGINALD DALE, U.S. EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

THE SAGGING U.S. economy produced a decline of 0.4 per cent in industrial production in August, the biggest fall since last year's recession, the Federal Reserve reported yesterday.

Most of the decline was due to reduced output in the motor and commercial vehicles industry, but there were also falls in production of household goods and building supplies and materials.

Business and defence equipment, on the other hand, continued to advance, the Fed said, and the overall index for

August was 7.5 per cent higher than in the same month last year. The last decline in the index was a drop of 0.1 per cent in April.

Private economists said the latest figures, taken alongside recent reports of rising stocks and poor levels of retail sales, portended increasing unemployment in September.

The first tentative measure of the overall Gross National Product for the third quarter is due on Friday. Mr Malcolm Baldrige, Commerce Secretary, has said the figure is likely to show no change or a slight decline.

Nuclear plant blockade

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ANTI-NUCLEAR demonstrators were blockading the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in California yesterday despite the arrest of nearly 500 protesters on Tuesday.

The demonstration is a last-ditch attempt by the anti-nuclear movement to stop Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the plant owners, from fuelling the nuclear reactor.

Protesters have entered the 700-acre site using ladders to

scale the outer perimeter. Others have made a sea landing on the coastal site which is situated roughly midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Once inside, the demonstrators have been peacefully arrested by local police. Original police estimates suggested that 4,000-5,000 demonstrators would converge on the site, but so far the numbers are much smaller. About 2,000 people are believed to be involved.

Uruguay faces tough democratic transition

By MARY HELEN SPOONER, RECENTLY IN MONTEVIDEO

GEN GREGORIO ALVAREZ, Uruguay's new President, has inspired cautious optimism among the country's two main political parties, while lending a receptive ear to the complaints of Uruguayan business and agricultural groups.

Gen Alvarez, who took office on September 1, has promised to hold elections in three years and turn over the presidency to the winner. This timetable was established after voters rejected a proposed new constitution last November which would have institutionalised military rule in Uruguay.

While many civilian leaders have reacted favourably to Gen Alvarez's promise and many of the President's public statements have been conciliatory, Uruguay's transition from military rule to elected government will not necessarily be easy.

The future of Uruguay's economy will be the most basic issue in the transition. Before the military took power in 1973, the country had one of the most advanced welfare states in the world, financed largely by its profitable livestock industry and import substitution industries protected by high trade tariffs. A sharp fall in the price of Uruguay's two main exports, beef and wool, caused a near-collapse in this system. Out of the "economic malaise" the Tupamaros, the left wing urban guerrillas, emerged towards the end of the 1960s, prompting the Uruguayan military to seize power.

Since that time, the Government has switched to a free market policy, though in a somewhat less dogmatic manner than in Chile. The change from a welfare state to a *laissez faire* model has produced some successes, but has also entailed a high social cost.

Last month Sr Valentin Arismendi, the Economy and Finance Minister, appeared on television to outline the state of the economy. He noted a growth of 39 per cent over the last seven years and stated that such policies as the maintenance of an overvalued peso to combat inflation would not be altered. In addition, Government spending, already at a balanced budgetary level, would

be further reduced. Likewise, President Alvarez's inaugural speech reiterated that there "will be no changes or adventures in fiscal and monetary policy."

But the opening of dialogue between Uruguay's military and civilian leaders means that the Government has to take public opinion into greater account than it used to. One of the most vocal critics has been Uruguay's powerful agricultural producers' organisation, the Federación Rural, whose exports have been hard hit by the current exchange rate of roughly 11 pesos to the dollar.

Sr Gonzalo Chiarino, president of Federación Rural, says that although exports of beef and wool have increased, the producers' earnings have been low due to the overvalued peso and what they view as questionable pricing policies by Uruguayan meat packers.

"The recession we are experiencing is being felt in other sectors," he said. Yet Sr Chiarino and others in the private sector have been heartened by what they say is the Government's willingness to hear their complaints. Last Friday, the Government announced new measures aimed at easing agricultural producers' problems, including a more favourable debt refinancing scheme, tax reductions and a promise to attempt to widen Uruguayan export markets abroad. Agricultural producers, however, are fortunate compared with Uruguayan labour. Trade unions have been banned since the military took power, although President Alvarez has indicated that at least some of the restrictions on labour organisations will be eased.

Although human rights in Uruguay are thought to have improved substantially since 1973, the legacy of years of restrictions remains. The Uruguayan Press, although somewhat freer since last year's constitutional plebiscite, still exercises considerable self-censorship.

Nevertheless, there is an unmistakable feeling of optimism among many civilian leaders, as well as a certain willingness to let bygones be bygones on both sides.

ON the 27th November, 1978, Taylor Woodrow completed on schedule a multi-million pound refurbishing and construction contract at London's Gatwick Airport.

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UK NEWS

BNOC begins production at new N. Sea oilfield

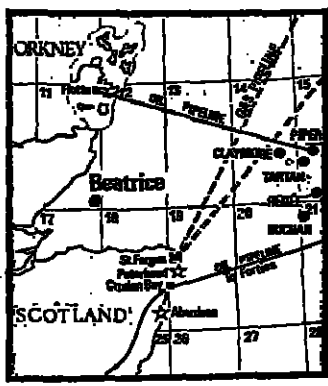
BY IRAY DAFTER, ENERGY EDITOR

BRITISH National Oil Corporation (BNOC) has begun producing oil from its Beatrice field in the Shetland Firth, Scotland. The field, developed at a cost of over £500m, is the 18th discovery to be brought on stream in the UK sector of the North Sea.

Initial output is being used to test various production systems, some of which are unique to the field. Unlike normal North Sea crudes, the oil in Beatrice is extremely waxy; at low temperatures it resembles black shoe polish.

Chemicals are added to the oil to ensure that it flows through the 50-mile long pipeline which links the field to a shore terminal at Shadwick Bay, Nigg.

Full production is expected to begin towards the end of the year. Oil will be raised at two production sites on the long, narrow reservoir structure at a rate of up to 60,000 b/d—about 3.3 per cent of total UK output. Beatrice was discovered by



Mesa Petroleum in 1976 in an area regarded by most of the oil industry as barren. BNOC took over its running in 1979, a year after it had been decided to exploit the field.

The reservoir is medium-sized by North Sea standards. Recoverable reserves are estimated to be 160m barrels.

Problems faced by Mesa Petroleum, and subsequently

BNOC, included the waxy nature of the oil and the close proximity of the field to the shore. As Beatrice is only 12 miles offshore—the nearest field to land of any North Sea discovery—environmentalists insisted on many safeguards.

The field is also located at a shallow depth—some 6,700 ft below the sea floor. The shallowness restricted the use of slanted wells—the normal method of production from a single platform. As a result BNOC is using two linked production platforms and a separate production rig to exploit the field.

BNOC said yesterday that, in spite of the unusual nature of the crude oil, it expected to attract a price of around \$35 a barrel.

Partners with BNOC in the venture are BP Petroleum Development, Deminor UK Oil and Gas, Hunt Overseas Oil, and Kerr McGee Oil (UK).

Esso plant estimate soars above £400m

By Sue Cameron, Chemicals Correspondent

THE ESTIMATED cost of Esso Chemical's petrochemical project at Mossburn, Fife has soared by more than £400m to more than £400m.

The company did not say what the exact cost of the 500,000 tonnes a year plant was expected to be. But the increase in cost estimates was blamed on several factors, including inflation. The need to carry out further detailed design work had also pushed up the cost.

The plant will use gas from Shell/Esso's Brent field in the North Sea as raw material for making ethylene, which is used in the production of a range of goods from solvents to plastics.

Cancellation fears

Earlier this summer there were fears that Esso might cancel the project on the grounds that it might not prove viable with Europe suffering from huge ethylene overcapacity.

But the U.S.-based group won concessions from the Government on such factors as rates and decided to go ahead.

Esso said the target date for completion was the end of 1984, with production scheduled to start in 1985. But the industry sees little chance of the project being finished before 1986.

The UK has an unenviable record for delays and cost overruns on building major plants. The jointly owned BP Chemicals/ICI plant at Wilton, Teesside, which is capable of producing 500,000 tonnes of ethylene annually, took twice as long to build and cost twice as much as originally expected.

Electrical ducts

Esso said yesterday that the Scottish-based Lilley Construction had been awarded a £10m contract for civil works at Mossburn. The contract was awarded by Lumsum, the main contractor.

The contract will cover roads, foundations, underground piping and instrument and electrical ducts. More than 600 people will be employed on the work, which is scheduled to start next month. Lilley expects to complete its part of the programme during the summer of 1983.

Esso reckons that the total employed at Mossburn during construction will be about 2,500.

Living standards rose last year despite big decline in output

BY ROBIN PAULEY

LIVING STANDARDS, measured by real personal disposable income, rose by 1.5 per cent in 1980 while output fell by 2 per cent, the largest year-on-year fall since the war.

The latest edition of the National Income and Expenditure "Blue Book" published today by the Government's Statistical Service also shows that the proportion of gross domestic product represented by output of manufacturing industries has fallen from about a third in 1970 to just under 25 per cent in 1980.

Industrial and commercial company profits, after stock appreciation and excluding North Sea oil companies, fell by 10 per cent between 1979 and 1980. Income from employment increased by 19 per cent during the same period.

Personal disposable income rose by 17.5 per cent between 1979 and 1980, less than the rise in total personal income, partly because of a 21 per cent increase in National Insurance contributions and a 19.5 per cent increase in income taxes.

After eliminating the effect of price increases, real personal disposable income increased by 1.5 per cent.

But consumer expenditure increased by 16 per cent in 1980, less than the rise in disposable income, increasing the saving ratio from 14.5 per cent in 1979

to 16 per cent in 1980—a consistent pattern since 1977.

Expenditure abroad was 27 per cent higher in 1980 than in 1979, reflecting the advantageous exchange rates available in 1980.

Spending on radio, electrical and other durables fell slightly in 1980 compared with 1979 but was still 31 per cent up on 1975. Expenditure on cars and motorcycles was down by 8 per cent between 1979 and 1980 and spending on alcoholic drink fell by about 4 per cent, having risen by about 5 per cent per year since 1970.

Output of mineral oil and natural gas increased by 2 per cent in 1980 after high increases in the previous three years. Other production industries declined by 8 per cent, with manufacturing output down 9 per cent from its consistent level of 1977, 1978 and 1979.

The industrial recession resulted in decreased demand for road and rail transport in both freight and passenger sectors, and the expansion in air transport slowed down.

The industrial downturn also contributed to a decline in wholesale and dealing activities, reducing the total output of the distributive trades although the volume of retail sales increased marginally.

A bright spot during 1980 was the weather which helped towards a good harvest; agricul-

ture, forestry and fishing industries improved their output by a total 8 per cent.

The "Blue Book" shows the changing importance of different sectors in contributing to GDP between 1970 and 1980. While the manufacturing sector declined markedly, professional, scientific, services, North Sea oil and gas, and insurance, banking and finance services increased in importance.

The North Sea oil companies increased their profits (before deducting stock appreciation) by about 45 per cent in 1980 compared with 1979 as oil prices rose, but the volume of North Sea oil produced and sold in 1980 increased by only one-half of 1 per cent.

Industrial and commercial companies not operating in the North Sea generally saw their profit margins eroded during 1980 with an overall fall of 15 per cent before deducting stock appreciation.

The gross trading surplus of all public corporations, after deducting stock appreciation, increased by 15 per cent in 1980. This is partly attributed to the large rise in surpluses of energy industries. An overall loss of £500m occurred for public manufacturing industries in 1980.

National Income and Expenditure (Blue Book) 1981, £12.45; HMSO.

Refinery closure to cost £60m

BY CHRISTINE MOIR

THE COST of closing Burnham Oil's Ellesmere Port refinery will be between £60m and £70m, the company revealed yesterday. A £60m figure was shown as an extraordinary loss in the interim figures for the group published yesterday. This turned the attributable profits of £13.3m for the six months to the end of June 1980 into losses of £56.5m this time. This is not withstanding a stated £4.8m increase at the pre-tax level of £33m.

About £25m of the cost reflects the written-down book-value of the plant, which Burnham is trying to sell. A similar amount was estimated as specific closure costs, primarily for redundancy payments to the 1,100 staff.

A further £15m has been set aside to cover trading losses expected as the plant is gradually closed and stock sold. Burnham had been selling stock at a loss before the closure of the division. These losses, amounting to about £5m, would normally have been taken above the line.

This would have cancelled out the improvement in pre-tax profits. Instead, the company has chosen to include the £5m in the extraordinary losses attributable to the closure.

Burnham said yesterday it had about £50m of capital tied up in the refinery which was trading at an annual rate of £30m losses when the decision was made to close it. The closure will release about £30m of working capital for use elsewhere among

the other operating divisions. Burnham yesterday confirmed it would not appeal against the High Court's dismissal of its claim against the Bank of England for the return of its BP stock, pledged to the Bank during the company's 1974 financial crisis.

The announcement immediately brought a strong response from the Burnham Shareholders Action Group. Mr Jonathan Stone, group chairman, said he was deeply disappointed and amazed at the decision.

The costs of appealing would have been relatively small, he said, and the action group had been going to meet the board yesterday afternoon to offer to indemnify the board against its costs if it lost the appeal.

MP bet 'as roulette ball dropped'

WHEN GAMBLING at the Playboy Club, Mr Clement Freud, Liberal MP for the Isle of Ely, called bets on the roulette wheel even as the ball dropped, a gaming licensing hearing heard yesterday. The bets were accepted every time, Mr Hubert Wood-Stoddard, a former croupier and inspector at the club, told South Westminster licensing justices.

Asked by Mr Michael Kempster, QC, for the police, if he considered this proper, Mr Wood-Stoddard replied: "I queried that once or twice and I was told just to get on with it, so I did."

The justices are considering police and Gaming Board objections to renewal of licences for the Playboy Club, Park Lane, and the Clermont Club, Berkeley Square.

Asked if Mr Freud sometimes lost, Mr Wood-Stoddard replied: "Not to my knowledge." He said he was under the impression Mr Freud was a Playboy director and therefore not allowed to play. He raised the question with the management and was told it would be all right.

Mr Lindsey Hodges, a former manager of the Playboy Club, said Mr Abdul Khawaja, a

regular customer, had acted as a tout.

"He would collect wealthy clients from hotels, bring them to the club and gamble with them. If they lost out of money he would pay-roll them. He would loan them money from his own sources and charge them interest to allow them to continue gambling."

Cross-examined by Mr Robert Alexander, QC, for the Playboy, Mr Hodges admitted he and another ex-Playboy employee had been paid £10,000 jointly by Ladbroke's, a rival chain, to supply information about Playboy operations.

Banks urged to have a heart

BY TIM DICKSON

BANKS in the UK have been weaker on capturing the hearts than the minds of their customers, Mr Stephen King, a director of J. Walter Thompson claimed yesterday.

"Traditional" complaints about Saturday opening hours, profits, charges and queues are really "symbols of weaknesses in relationships," he told the Institute of Bankers' Cambridge seminar.

If this is the case, he went on, "they will never be wholly cured by physical and functional improvements" and the establishment of bank branches with personal advisers and

more closely linked to local communities may have to be given higher priority.

Mr King pointed out that, based on recent market research, banks get exceptionally high marks for efficiency, speed of service, integrity and reliability.

"Honesty and efficiency are, of course, fundamental in financial matters," he added, "but it has to be said that they are rather cold virtues."

"There is a lot of evidence that banks have not wholly satisfied the emotional needs of a substantial proportion of customers—especially those

who feel less secure in their ability to cope with money problems, such as the young and weekly-paid. The banking societies appear to have been more successful in establishing a degree of emotional involvement."

Although he could not deny that the banks have been stepping up their profile in recent months, Mr King suggests that they are "competitively weak" in the personal borrowing and savings field and that "there is an apparent failure to exploit to the full a unique opportunity to offer personal financial advice."

Grim jobs outlook for fixed-wing pilots

BY MICHAEL DOWNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

THE short-term outlook for jobs than 500 were unemployed. At the same time, many are working reduced hours, while British Airways is cutting flight staff and shutting its College of Air Training at Hamble.

Captain Nick Pennington of Britannia Airways said the airline recruited 35 first officers this year. Air Europa, another independent, has taken on a number of ex-British Airways

pilots. British Caledonian sees no need for additional pilots for some time, while Dan-Air has currently stopped recruiting.

Of the domestic airlines, only Brymon is taking on some pilots. Captain Mike Morris, of Bristol Helicopters, said, however, that there were plenty of opportunities for helicopter pilots, and he was "optimistic for the future."

Housing association report sent to McNeen

By Andrew Taylor

THE RESULTS of an inquiry alleging previous mismanagement of the Morton Housing Association in the London borough of Kensington and Chelsea, has been referred to Sir David McNeen, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

A copy of the report has also been sent to Mr Michael Heseltine, Environment Secretary. The inquiry was ordered by the Housing Corporation, the supervisory body for the housing association movement.

The Housing Corporation said that the inquiry, headed by Mr Peter Millett QC, "was satisfied that there had previously been mismanagement in the affairs of the association."

Following allegations of mismanagement, the Housing Corporation appointed four new members to the committee of management of the Morton Association. In addition, the Housing Association Consultancy and Advisory Service—an independent body which provides advisory and consultancy services for housing associations—was appointed to act as secretary and managing agents at Morton.

The Housing Corporation said that following these moves there is no need for "further statutory action for the protection of the association."

Sir Keith to face education protest

FOUR UNIONS representing 110,000 students and higher educational staff are to face Sir Keith Joseph, the new Education Secretary, with a concerted protest against cuts in public spending on higher education.

A "day of action" including a lobby of Parliament will be staged on November 18. Sir Keith is being called on to meet a joint delegation from the unions—the Association of University Teachers, the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, the National Union of Public Employees, and the National Association of Local Government Officers.

Attack on barriers to women managers

STEREOTYPED attitudes towards the employment of women must change if they are to help meet the country's need for skilled technicians, engineers and managers, Sir Richard O'Brien, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, said yesterday.

Only 3 per cent of senior managers are women, and even in offices where three quarters of the staff were women they held less than a fifth of management posts, said Sir Richard. This chronic waste of half the nation's talent and skill would continue unless the tendency to regard women merely as reserve workforce was halted, he told an MSC conference in Oxford.

Prisons threatened with 'catastrophe'

THE GOVERNMENT was accused by an all party parliamentary group yesterday of threatening the British prison system with "catastrophe" by failing to do anything about overcrowding. The penal affairs group was protesting about the lack of action following its "Too Many Prisoners" report last June, which detailed 45 recommendations for reducing the prison population.

A new report, "Still Too Many Prisoners," says the Government has failed to produce a sustained and radical approach to prevent a crisis becoming a catastrophe. The present level of overcrowding required many prison staff to work in objectionable and unacceptable conditions.

Cumbria seeks coal terminal approval

GOVERNMENT approval is being sought for a £2.75m investment by Cumbria County Council in a coal shipping terminal at Workington. The council, which said yesterday that the project should be completed within the next two years, has had co-operation from the National Coal Board in planning the terminal.

Euro-MP on 'bullying customs'

By Lynton McLean, Transport Correspondent

FRENCH CUSTOMS officials were accused by a British member of the European Parliament yesterday of taxing coach drivers twice for the diesel fuel in their tanks.

Dr Alexander Sherlock, the MEP for Essex south west told the European Parliament in Strasbourg that some British coach operators were considering retaliation by blocking continental drivers at British ports.

"In some cases, coach drivers have had to borrow money from passengers to pay a special travel tax," Dr Sherlock said. Almost 50 coach companies in south Essex had protested to him about "bullying" by foreign customs officials.

Dr Sherlock said that the French measured the fuel in the coaches' diesel tanks, then charged taxes on the volume. British taxes had already been paid on the fuel.

In Germany, he said in a debate on a European report aimed at ending many customs controls, British drivers were charged a fee for each passenger. This had the effect of adding a further 10 pence a mile to operating costs.

In Belgium, an entry tax was charged on coaches each time a border was crossed.

Fares cut by Channel ferries

By Andrew Fisher, Shipping Correspondent

AFTER a poor financial performance in the first half of the year, Britain's cross-Channel ferry companies have started their efforts to fill as many seats as possible in the slack winter season.

At the same time, employees of P & O Ferries have been told by letter that economies will be essential with "full consultation" before any decisions are made concerning staff.

Last week, the parent Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company announced a slump in pre-tax profits for the first six months from £12.5m to £28,000. On the ferry side, there was a £5.2m operating loss.

Townsend Thoresen, which also suffered heavily in the first half, has decided to cut the price of its one-day winter sail and save cruise from Southampton to Cherbourg to £7.50 from £8.50.

Thrown in with the trip will be a litre of whisky or gin, along with 300 cigarettes on weekday crossings. European Ferries, which owns Townsend Thoresen, made a £9.3m loss on shipping in the first half and a £2.34m pre-tax loss overall.

The other major cross-Channel operator, Sealink UK owned by British Rail, also plans to announce cheap winter day fares, but would give no details yesterday.

Cider bottled in new rigid plastic

BY MAURICE SAMUELSON

CIDER HAS become the first alcoholic drink to be sold in the UK in rigid plastic bottles made of PET (polyethylene terephthalate), the new packaging material which is rapidly making inroads into the glass market.

Bulmers is conducting trial sales of Woodpecker cider in two-litre PET bottles supplied by Metal Box's paper and plastics division's plant at Wrexham, North Wales.

Until now only carbonated beverages have been sold in PET

bottles in the UK, apart from the miniature spirits bottles used on airlines and trains. Metal Box called Bulmers' use of two-litre bottles a major advance for PET in the beverage market.

The large bottles are thought to be particularly suitable for the take-home trade in cider which accounts for half the UK's total cider production.

Bulmers wants to develop the Woodpecker pack through the retail grocery trade especially. Extensive marketing of two-

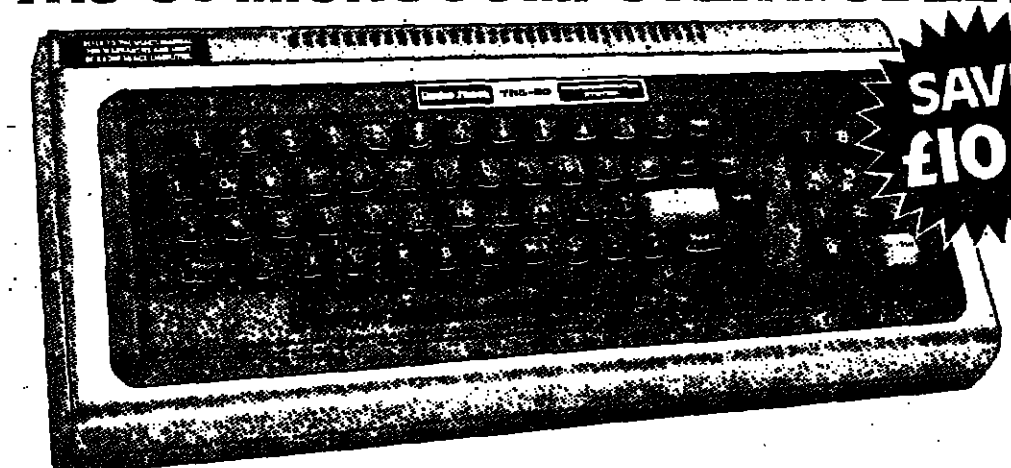
litre bottles over the past 12 months has proved encouraging. Tests will continue at selected supermarkets.

Growth in use of PET bottles for carbonated soft drinks has grown rapidly in the UK. Forecasts for 1981 are up to 300m units, compared with 25m units in 1978.

The 1.5-litre size accounted for about three-quarters of the market in 1980. The two-litre size is becoming more popular. A one-litre size has been introduced.

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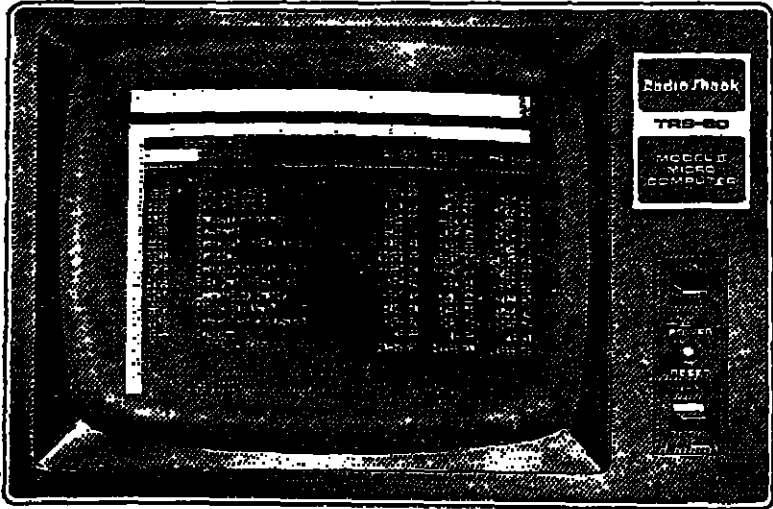
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Howell to consider pleas for increase of lorry weight limits

By LYNTON McLAIN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

EFFICIENCY IN road and rail transport is expected to become one of Mr David Howell's major themes, the former Energy Secretary suggested yesterday, the day after he started his new job as Transport Secretary.

Tuesday was taken up largely with meeting officials and finding out about the long list of transport policy issues left by his predecessor, Mr Norman Fowler, the new Social Services Secretary.

One of the most controversial issues facing Mr Howell is what to do about heavy lorries. Mr Fowler had previously ruled out any possibility that the Government would implement the recommendation of the Armitage inquiry that Britain's maximum gross laden lorry weights should be raised by over 35 per cent to 44 tonnes.

Mr Howell has not had time to evaluate the arguments for and against an increase in lorry weights from the present 32.5 tonnes gross laden weight limit. However, he has been given a forceful introduction to the subject. He met a powerful delegation on Tuesday from industry which urged him to accept that the case for heavier lorries was overwhelming.

The delegation was led by the Freight Transport Association (FTA), which had originally planned a meeting with Mr Fowler to discuss the Armitage recommendations on lorries, people and the environment.

The FTA was joined by representatives from the Confederation of British Industry,

the Road Haulage Association, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, the National Farmers Union, the Chemical Industries Association, the Food Manufacturers Association, the General Council of British Shipping, the Glass Manufacturers Association, the Sand and Gravel Association and the UK Agricultural Suppliers Trade Association.

The delegation called for an increase in lorry weights to between 34 and 40 tonnes, the higher weight being in line with the revised recommendation of the European Commission, announced last week. This marked a climbdown from the commission's previous insistence that European lorry weights should be harmonised at 44 tonnes.

Mr Fowler had done no detailed analysis of the heavy lorry issue in deciding not to raise limits to 44 tonnes, and had taken no action to implement the 58 recommendations of Armitage in the nine months since the report was published last year.

Mr Howell is to address the national conference of the FTA on the theme of efficiency in transport, at Wembley today.

He is expected to elaborate on his general theme that "transport has a gigantic part to play in getting Britain's industrial costs down," which he developed briefly in his first interview as Transport Secretary, with the Press Association news agency, yesterday.

Lucas sets up Syalon company

By Maurice Samuelson

Lucas Industries has set up a company to exploit what it calls "the engineering material of the future, which takes over where metals cease to function."

The company, Lucas Syalon, will promote Syalon ceramic, said to withstand the extreme temperatures developed in the latest high performance diesel engines and gas turbines.

The main customers are expected to be aero and motor-car engine manufacturers. Syalon ceramic is one of a number of materials competing to replace metals. According to Lucas, the one most widely adopted will earn its manufacturers "a pot of gold."

Syalon ceramic, already extensively used on the tips of cutting tools, is composed largely of silicon, aluminium, oxygen and nitrogen. (Its name is based on an acronym of these elements.)

Lucas has spent more than £1m on developing Syalon ceramic. But Britain, unlike other countries, has no state-funded research in this field.

Rescue bid mounted for Manx bank

By ANTHONY MORETON, REGIONAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

A RESCUE operation has been launched to help International Finance and Trust Corporation, of Douglas in the Isle of Man, which has run into trouble over a large loan.

The bank has suspended trading and is refusing to answer any queries. Its switchboard operator was yesterday denying any directors were present though the managers later resented by allowing her to say that no comment would be issued until an internal inquiry had been completed.

The Isle of Man Government, however, said negotiations were going satisfactorily and it was hoped the rescue would be completed in the next few days.

International Finance and Trust Corporation is one of 43 concerns with a banking licence under section 3 of the 1975 Banking Act on the Isle of Man.

As a Manx concern it is not subject out to control by the Bank of England. It is understood, though, that the authorities in Douglas have kept the Bank of England briefed on the situation.

The independence enjoyed on the Isle of Man arises out of the island's constitution. It is a crown dependency, owing allegiance to the Queen and therefore not subject to British laws. Its position is similar to that of the Channel Islands, and in Bermuda.

Although LFTC is registered on the Isle of Man it is understood that the main shareholders are based in Sark, in the Channel Islands, and in Bermuda.

The bank has an issued capital of £1m. Three companies based on Sark—Sea Agencies, Brampton and Ditchburn—and one based on Bermuda—Cone—each hold 3,632 shares of \$50 each according to the register of companies in Douglas. This accounts for three-quarters of the capital.

The company was formed in 1969 with a capital of £100,000, increased six months later to £305,000 and in August 1973 to £630,000. The present capital of £1m was set in February 1978.

The problems arising at LFTC are the first to affect a Manx bank since Savings and Investment Bank, also of Douglas, was in trouble five years ago. That too, was rescued with the help of the Isle of Man authorities.

Condemned houses up by 42%

By Robin Pauley

A MARKED decline in the quality of British housing is indicated by figures for the number of houses considered unfit for human habitation, which last year increased by 42 per cent compared with 1979.

The increase—from 288,000 to 409,599—will continue unless government policies change, says the annual report of the Institution of Environmental Health Officers published yesterday.

Mr Mick Archer, the institution's president, said a comprehensive strategy was urgently needed to remove unfit houses, repair and improve others and tackle the unsatisfactory environment of inner cities.

This would include improving neglected streets and roads and renewing sewers, drains and other services.

The report describes as "alarming" the fall in the number of slums cleared in England and Wales from 41,798 in 1977 to 33,916 in 1980 and calls for an improved programme of clearance and redevelopment.

Directors seek new tax cut commitment

By ELAINE WILLIAMS

THE INSTITUTE of Directors yesterday called on the Chancellor to commit himself to new tax cuts for both business and personal taxpayers.

Mr Walter Goldsmith, director general, speaking at the launch of the institute's new City of London branch, said that the basic income tax rate should be lowered to 28p and capital gains tax to 25 per cent. There should also be a reduction in capital transfer tax.

"A reaffirmation of the tax cutting momentum which brought Mrs Thatcher to office and which played such a large part in electing a free enterprise administration is needed," Mr Goldsmith said.

Although this momentum had faltered in the last year, Mr Goldsmith said the institute had renewed optimism in the chances of success for the Government's economic and industrial policies following the recent Cabinet reshuffle.

"The tax cutting drive must go to the head of ministerial agendas," Mr Goldsmith urged since this was the best way to boost commerce and industry while operating within the public spending restraints.

"We can see no better way of strengthening the resolve of wavering ministers, tempted to defend their departmental budgets because of the certainty that savings made will end up as part of spending programmes in other departments," he said.

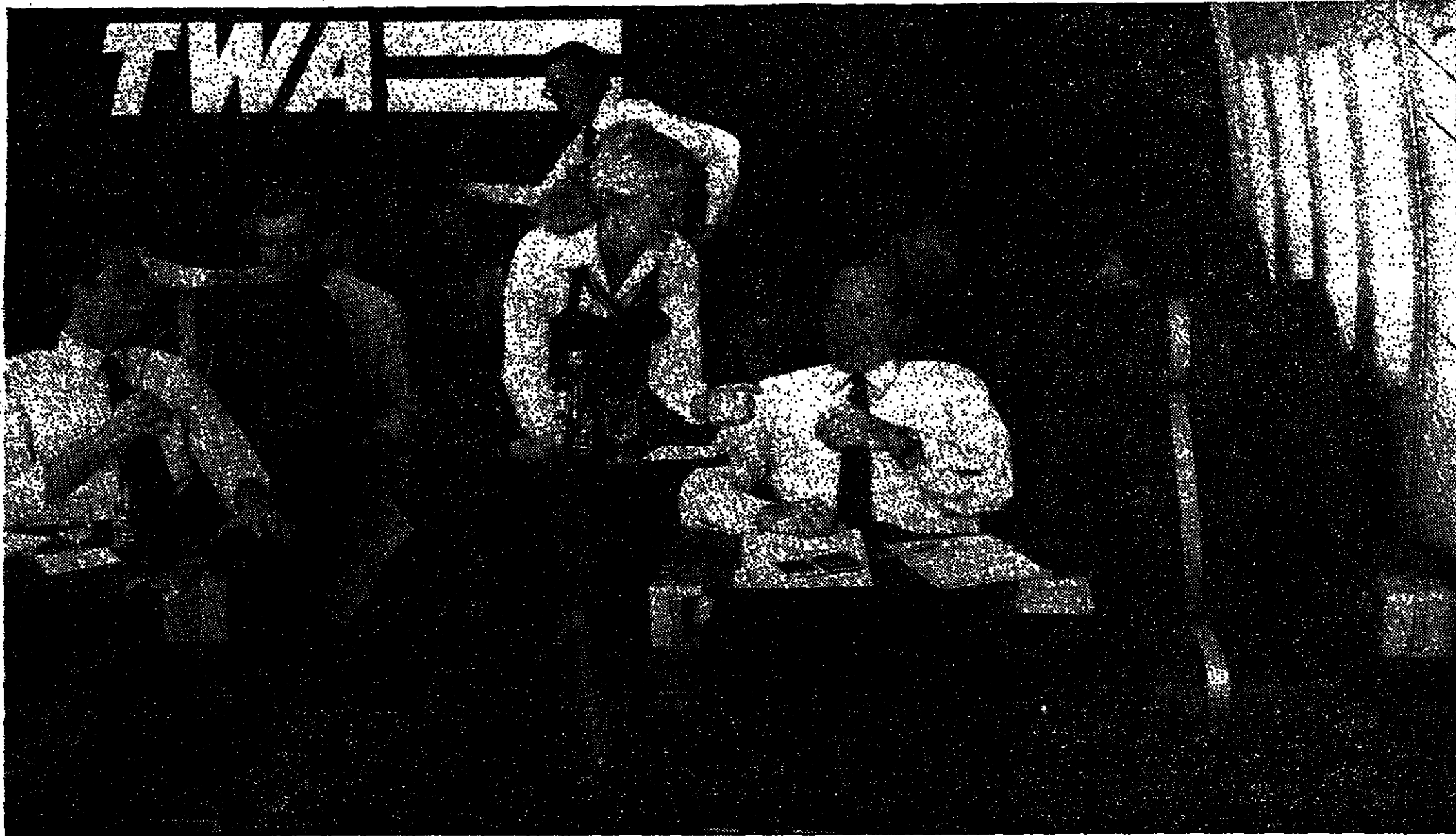
The institute regarded at least £2.5bn as being available for tax cuts in the coming year. This would be financed by a significant stepping up of the Government's campaign to sell public sector assets worth from £500m to £2bn in the coming year and by further public spending cuts of £1bn.

Mr Goldsmith said that a clear tax cutting objective declared by the Chancellor now would impose disciplines on current spending negotiations.

"It will hold out the prospect of a reversal of the creeping tax increases to balance the Budget of last year, which has inhibited economic growth and increased the need for more Government spending to mitigate the consequences," he said.

The institute called for a break in this cycle of decline which was threatening further Budget deficits.

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Hong Kong fares cut

By MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

SAVINGS OF up to \$800 on fares between the UK and Hong Kong will be available this winter on British Caledonian, the independent airline.

Between October 1 and January 31 the airline will cut first-class fares to \$699 single and \$1,398 return—reductions of £401 and £802 respectively on current fares.

Between October 1 and March 31 executive class passengers will pay £410 single and £770 return, compared with the present £465 single and £870 return—savings of £55 and £100 respectively.

The airline will be increasing the frequency of Hong Kong services from four to five a week from October 25.

British Caledonian has been flying to Hong Kong since August 1, 1980. In its first year it carried 74,000 passengers.

Another 800 long-term car-parking spaces have been provided at Heathrow Airport. Total long-term spaces now available is 6,314, with another 4,495 short-term spaces in the Central Terminal area.

Another 9,000 new jobs promised for Wales

By ROBIN KEEVES, WELSH CORRESPONDENT

THE WELSH Development Agency has brought 14,300 new jobs to Wales and the promise of 9,000 more, according to an assessment of its five years' activities published by the Agency today.

The report shows that the WDA has completed, and found tenants for, nearly 300 advance factories totalling some 2m sq ft and has a further 400 factories under construction which will provide another 2.4m sq ft.

Investment funds totalling £22m were offered to Wales-based enterprises, of which £17m was taken up by nearly 200 businesses. Some 3,300 jobs were created as a consequence.

Nevertheless, the report concedes that the agency's investment record has been subject to criticism. It stresses that since the onset of the recession, half the agency's investments have been in start-up projects.

"Despite the greater risks inherent in this type of investment and the business difficul-

ties caused by the economic recession, the agency is well satisfied with the performance and future potential of a large number of these high-risk ventures," the report says.

It also shows that the WDA has reclaimed a further 4,000 acres of derelict land and other man-made eyesores.

Meanwhile, the Welsh Nationalist Party, Plaid Cymru, yesterday called for the setting up of a series of local enterprise boards, based on each of the eight Welsh counties.

The boards would promote workers' co-operatives and new public and municipal enterprises to assist the creation of jobs.

Plaid Cymru suggested the boards could be financed through pension funds and Section 137 of the 1972 Local Government Act. This allows local authorities to levy a rate of up to 2p in the pound for any purpose they consider beneficial to their areas. In Wales such a levy would yield just more than £5m per annum.

Scottish agency to spend £9m on Garnock Valley

By JAMES McDONALD

THE SCOTTISH Development Agency is to spend a further £9m over the next three years to maintain the impetus of a drive to attract jobs to Garnock Valley in Ayrshire.

About £7m will be spent on factories, site development and better road links. The remaining £2m will go towards improving the environment.

Work is being co-ordinated by the Garnock Valley Task Force, formed two years ago by the SDA, which has already spent about £5m regenerating the local economy.

The task force—which embodies BSC (Industry), and works closely with Strathclyde Regional Council and Cunningham District Council—has assisted about 50 firms to develop in the area, providing 950 jobs.

In the next stage more than 200,000 square feet of manufacturing space is to be provided at Paddockholm, Kilmarnock, at Willowyard, Beith, and for the former Glenarnock Steelworks where the SDA bought 312 acres from the British Steel Corporation.

More than 100,000 square feet of ready-made production space has been earmarked on the site for a Glenarnock industrial estate. Advance factories range from 1,000 square feet to 8,000 square feet and will be on-land formerly used as railway sidings and locomotive sheds and on a reclaimed reservoir.

The factory space planned for the valley will support 650 jobs—the number lost when steel-making ended at Glenarnock in 1978.

SURVEY ON REDDITCH

The Financial Times survey on Redditch scheduled for today's issue will now appear on Monday September 21 1981.



Ian Crowe, Terry Glossop, Ian Smith, Simon Grettton

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UK NEWS—LABOUR

Pan Am staff agree to accept 10% wage bill cut and pay freeze

By BRIAN GROOM, LABOUR STAFF

THE 1,055 UK-based staff of Pan American World Airways have agreed to a 10 per cent cut in the wage bill and a pay freeze through 1982. Pan Am is the first to achieve a cut in pay among well-known employers seeking concessions.

Several thousand of British Caledonian's 6,000 employees have agreed to forego two cost of living increases of 4 per cent each, which amounts to a voluntary wage freeze. Hoover wants its 9,000 UK staff to take a 10 per cent cut, and British Airways is seeking a one-year freeze.

Pan Am's pay request, made to 33,000 workers worldwide, forms part of measures demanded by a consortium of U.S. banks to cut the company's losses so that it can secure a \$200m (£108.9m) line of credit.

The London agreement affects a total of 1,500 managers and staff in the Northern European region, including the Benelux and Scandinavian countries. The formula eliminates the

staff's annual bonus, due in January and worth 8.3 per cent. The 1.7 per cent difference is to be achieved by efficiency measures.

Pan Am will also seek voluntary redundancies amounting to about 8 per cent of staff in "overhead" areas which do not deal directly with the public, such as supply and accounting. It will discuss work-sharing in the form of an accelerated leave-of-absence programme, particularly among reservations staff.

The airline's terminal at Stanway Place, London, is to be closed. Mr Hank Auerbach, regional managing director, said yesterday that 90 per cent of the staff had voted for the deal in union ballots. If the pay cut was achieved worldwide it would, along with retrenchment on overheads, save \$400m. In the UK the two factors would save \$2.7m.

Ballooning on the pay cut is still taking place in the U.S., where most Pan Am staff work.

Cuts have been accepted in a number of other countries. Mr Roger Heasman, a representative of 120 members of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs at Pan Am, said the cut was accepted because "we felt that perhaps we had no option. Things did look quite bad for Pan American."

Pan Am at first sought a straight 10 per cent cut, but the unions—the Transport and General, the Engineering Workers and ASTMS—suggested the bonus option. Mr Heasman said the company had agreed to pay a portion of the staff's pension contributions once its financial position improved.

The airline lost \$217.8m in the first half of this year. In addition to its plan for pay and overheads it has suspended a cost-cutting plan aimed at further slimming operations and concentrating activities in potentially profitable areas has yet to be taken.

Sir John, speaking in Liverpool, blamed the poor results on the recession and its effect on trade. General cargo declined a further 15 per cent and there was a 12 per cent reduction in the number of containers handled by the port, although specialised bulk cargoes such as grain and timber held their own. Operating revenue at £32.05m was only marginally up on the figure of £31.6m in the same period last year.

The results over the current six months are being affected by the loss of a number of important customers who had switched operations to other ports.

Healey wins support in Wales

By Robin Reeves

A MAJORITY of Transport and General Workers' Union branches in Wales have backed Mr Denis Healey for the deputy Labour leadership, rather than Mr John Silkin, the candidate favoured by some of the unions' leadership.

The voting was 145 branches for Mr Healey and 138 branches for Mr Silkin. Only 31 branches supported Mr Tony Benn.

Mr George Wright, Welsh Secretary of the union, said the result was a personal disappointment to him. But he felt that the mood had been changing in the last few weeks, and people were tired of hickering. "They want us to be standing up and fighting the Tories," he said.

Smaller pottery industry forecast

Financial Times Reporter

STAFFORDSHIRE'S ailing pottery industry will never fully recover from the ravages of the recession, a union chief claimed yesterday.

But Mr Alf Clowes, general secretary of Ceramic and Allied Trade Unions, said that if the recession began to ease, three-quarters of the industry could survive.

There have been 18,000 redundancies in the past two years.

"It concerns us that people are saying that the recession has bottomed out when we have just had 3,000 redundancies in the past three months. The evidence in the pottery industry is that we can see no upturn at all in the next 12 months," Mr Clowes said.

Plessey plant dispute ends

NORMAL PRODUCTION was resumed yesterday at Plessey's radar-defence equipment electronics plant in Liverpool's city centre. White-collar workers had maintained a partial occupation for 11 days.

They opposed redundancy notices for 16 drawing-department staff. Management and TASS, the white-collar section of the engineers union, have now agreed that two men will take early retirement, two will obtain other posts and 12 will be found work in the company.

Mersey dockers take final offer

By MARY DAVO AND BRIAN GROOM

FIVE MONTHS of wrangling over the annual pay award for 3,500 dockers on the Mersey ended yesterday when a mass meeting voted to accept the employers' final offer.

But at the same time it was announced that the Port of Liverpool made a record six-month trading loss of £2.47m in the period to the end of June. It warned of a further deterioration in the second half.

The dockers' decision reverses that taken a fortnight ago. The employers have refused to alter their final pay and productivity offer. Transport and General Workers' Union shop stewards said yesterday's vote was carried by a narrow majority of 80 per cent.

Shop stewards reversed their previous position and recommended the deal. It ends a dispute which involved six one-day stoppages.

The basic wage will rise by £11-43 higher than the original offer—to £29.50p a week. There are increased shift and bonus

payments and a lump sum of £200 representing backdated pay.

The deal also involves substantial changes in working practices, which was the main sticking point. These include reduced manning levels, which the dockers fear will lead to further redundancies on top of the nearly 1,300 achieved by voluntary severance this year.

Employers regard the changes as crucial to the port's attempt to reverse its financial position. However, Sir John Page, chairman of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, admitted yesterday that the chances of returning to profit by the original target date of 1982 were lessening despite big reduction in overheads brought about by manpower cuts.

The port—along with the Port of London—is being kept afloat by financial aid from the Government. In the first six months this amounted to £14m in the case of Liverpool to £14m plus a further £4.6m to cover the cost of voluntary severance for its

own dock workers and a further £1.7m for dockers employed by other stevedoring companies.

A government decision on whether further aid should be made available to help companies to implement a cost-cutting plan aimed at further slimming operations and concentrating activities in potentially profitable areas has yet to be taken.

Sir John, speaking in Liverpool, blamed the poor results on the recession and its effect on trade. General cargo declined a further 15 per cent and there was a 12 per cent reduction in the number of containers handled by the port, although specialised bulk cargoes such as grain and timber held their own. Operating revenue at £32.05m was only marginally up on the figure of £31.6m in the same period last year.

The results over the current six months are being affected by the loss of a number of important customers who had switched operations to other ports.

APPOINTMENTS

Bunzl forms new divisional board

BUNZL PULP AND PAPER has formed a divisional board for its industrial activities in the UK.

Mr Peter Gell, a main board director of Bunzl, has been appointed chairman of the industrial division board, and the other members are Mr Michael White, director responsible for strategic market and technical development, Mr David Webster, director responsible for all financial matters, and Mr Alan Kelch, director responsible for industrial engineering and personnel services.

Mr White is succeeded as managing director of Wycombe Marsh Paper Mills by Mr Alasdair Gardiner, previously finance and personnel director. In addition to Wycombe Marsh, the other companies in the industrial division are Carter Bros. (Billingshurst), Coated Specialties and Rolap Paper.

Mr Otto J. Betz III has been transferred from New York to the London office of the BANK OF NEW YORK as vice-president and resident manager. The current resident manager, Mr John A. Ross, vice-president, has been reassigned to the Treasury department at head office with responsibility for international liability management.

Mr Andrew Senna, formerly a director of Heron Leasing and Heron Motor Group, has been appointed managing director of CROUCH LEISURE DEVELOPMENTS. This company is a newly-formed subsidiary of Crouch Group and will be engaged in leisure property development. Other directors are Mr Ronald Clemenson (chairman), Mr David Cakebread, Mr Eric Rague and Mr Tony Longman.

Mr Christopher Williams has been appointed administrator of the new BUPA Hospital, Cardiff.

ANGUS FIRE ARMOUR has made the following appointments from October 1: Mr Jeff Williams has been appointed managing director, HCB Angus fire fighting vehicle manufacturing subsidiary based at Southampton. Mr John Hutchings, former managing director, will now be based at Thame in charge of overseas companies. Mr Ray Hart joins as marketing director from the Guthrie Corporation. Mr Bernard Drimhall is appointed manufacturing director, North West factories and Mr Alan Rodriguez research and development manager.

Sir Myles Humphreys, has been appointed a director of ABBEY NATIONAL.

Dr Eric Millman Hunt will resign as executive chairman of the Dutch-owned AKZO CHEMIE UK on October 31, to become a

part-time adviser to this and other organisations.

Mr K. Taylor, company secretary, has been appointed to the board of SQUIRREL HORN.

THE NATIONAL CARAVAN COUNCIL has appointed a new director general, Mr Malcolm Stuart. He was recently managing director of a GEC subsidiary.

MIDLAND RADIO SALES (Beacon, BRMB, Centre, Mercia Sound Trent) has appointed Mr John Harvard-Davies as managing director.

KCA INTERNATIONAL has appointed Mr Nicholas Seames as an executive director from September 21. He joins KCA from the Sedgwick Group where he was assistant director.

Mr Nigel J. Gerrett has been appointed a director of SALAMANDER ESTATES. He was formerly with Greycoat Estates.

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Liberals jubilant at vote for alliance

BY IVOR OWEN

JUBILANT LIBERALS voted overwhelmingly at Llandudno yesterday for an electoral alliance with the Social Democrats, and then walked into the sunshine convinced that the party is on the way to becoming a full partner in government again.

The biggest and most enthusiastic Liberal Assembly for decades roared approval for a decision which the leadership and the mass of the rank and file clearly believe will break the dominating grip of the Conservative and Labour parties on British politics.

Fears persisted throughout a hard-hitting debate which overran the 24 hours allocated to it that for all its history and tradition, the Liberal Party could eventually be submerged by the fledgling SDP.

A clear-cut assurance from Mr Alan Beith, MP for Berwick-upon-Tweed and Liberal chief whip in the Commons, reassured many of those who had appeared hesitant about setting foot on the path which could take the party out of the political wilderness.

He left no doubt that in the period up to the next general election the party would be entering a limited business arrangement with the SDP and not a merger.

"This is a decision now on one election and one government, but not beyond," he said.

He gave a pledge that the party would be given a further opportunity to decide what should happen after the next election.

When the final vote was taken only 112 of the 1,700 delegates raised their hands against the substantive motion endorsing the proposal that the Liberal Party and the SDP should work in alliance to secure a majority in the next parliament.

An amendment by the London

ONE OF the few voices raised against rushing into the alliance with the Social Democrats was that of Mr Michael Meadowcroft, a leading Yorkshire Liberal and retiring chairman of the assembly arrangements committee.

He argued that the national interest was the crucial issue and contended that it was not enough simply to reject conservatism and socialism.

Mr Meadowcroft feared the consequences if a government resulting from the alliance were to fail through lack of adequate agreement on objectives.

Such a development, he said, would be the last nail in the coffin of a number of major cities in Britain.

Mr Meadowcroft told delegates that they were allowing vital considerations to be swept aside in their enthusiasm to rush into the alliance.

Liberal Party seeking to subject the final agreement to ratification by a special Liberal Assembly was crushingly rejected.

Urging delegates not to resort to procedural devices to delay the alliance with the SDP, Mr Beith warned: "The country is not ready to wait for us."

One sop which Mr Beith offered the doubters was acceptance of an amendment backed by Mr Cyril Smith, MP for Rochdale, and sponsored by the Association of Liberal Councillors.

This did not oppose the alliance but reaffirmed the existence of "liberalism as a political force and belief separate and distinct from all others."

Mr Beith accepted that the formation of the alliance must not be allowed to prevent the continued development of the Liberal Party across the country.

This was essential, he said, in order to preserve Liberal beliefs which would have disappeared years ago if the party had not been geared to fight for them.

To cheers, Mr Beith looked forward to the next general election being the last one

fought under the first past the post voting system.

When proportional representation had been established by an alliance government it would be up to the Liberal and Social Democratic parties to decide how they would operate in future elections.

The choice would be between drawing together the two parties and fighting on common ground, or running separate campaigns.

In any case, Mr Beith contended, the operation of proportional representation would ensure that both the Liberals and the Social Democrats had a political future.

The Liberal chief whip had some chill words for those Labour MPs who have decided to await the outcome of the contest between Mr Denis Healey and Mr Tony Benn for the deputy leadership before deciding whether to leave.

The Liberals, he said, did not want an alliance with a new wave of defectors who were using the SDP as an escape hatch.

Mr Beith was warmly applauded when he spoke in contemptuous tones of Labour "refugees from re-election" and "machine men whose

Mr Derek Morse, chairman of Chester Le Street Liberals, also sounded a note of caution.

He urged Mr David Steel, the party leader: "Don't force the marriage. It will come if the approach and policies are right."

Mr Morse challenged the commitment to libertarian principles of some of the members of the SDP.

While the veneer of the "gang of four" appeared very good he was afraid that the woodwork might prove to be rotten.

Mr Morse was applauded when he asserted that the Liberals had never been a centre party, an establishment-orientated party or the party of status politics.

"The Liberals are a radical party out to revolutionise society," he declared.

machines had broken down and refused to deliver."

Mr Beith forsook a winter of confrontation ahead as the trade unions rebelled against the Government's decision to limit to 4 per cent the additional costs arising from wage increases in the public sector.

He warned, too, that the British people would be called on to make fresh sacrifices when an alliance government sought to get the country back on its feet again.

But unlike the sacrifices endured under Conservative and Labour governments during recent years they would not be made without hope.

Mr Richard Holmes, outgoing president of the Liberal Party, who has played a leading role in the preliminary negotiations with the SDP, calmed the anxiety of delegates fearing that candidates adopted by local Liberal associations would be disowned because of the alliance.

In marked contrast to the suggestions made by Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, at the weekend, he insisted that the implementation of any recommendation from headquarters that a candidate should withdraw would be a matter for

voluntary decision by the constituency party concerned.

Mr Holmes ruled out the "carrying up" of constituencies from London between Social Democrat and Liberal headquarters.

He envisaged the formation of joint negotiating teams by the two parties centred on areas small enough to allow real negotiations between Liberal and SDP leaders in the constituencies concerned.

"Only an alliance structured on the ground will take root," Mr Holmes maintained.

Sir Trevor Jones, leader of the Liverpool City Council and known as "Jones the Vote" said that his view had been altered by Mrs Thatcher.

Sir Trevor said he had recently been involved in discussions with the Prime Minister about the problems of inner cities.

"I came to the conclusion that she is right when she says there is no alternative but that we back the alliance and break the mould of British politics and throw out the two parties who have been bringing this nation further and further into decline over the last few years."

that this is too late, and that the deadline should come into effect shortly after the Labour Party conference.

The Liberals have compromised with a formula which would mean any MP who joined the Social Democrats from now on would have to be re-elected (re-selected is too emotional a word for any MP who belonged to the Labour Party) before he could claim first rights on his constituency.

This leaves the problem of what to do about 230 or so Liberal candidates who have already been elected. Both sides agree that some will have to stand down. The guidelines lay down criteria for deciding which party would be better equipped to fight which seats. These include the number of party members, the degree of local support and the level of party activity.

Whatever guidelines are agreed, there will be disagreements—not least about what constitutes a "winnable seat."

Mr Rodgers yesterday reasoned the parties would be able to agree without too many problems in about two-thirds of the constituencies. But this would leave 200 constituencies where all the goodwill of the alliance would be needed.

Once it has been decided who is fighting which seat, it will be up to the party in charge to select its candidate in the normal way. In most cases, this candidate would then be endorsed by the other party—as happened in Warrington and Croydon North West.

At the election, they would remain the identity of their own party, but the hope of the Liberal and SDP leaders is that in many cases, it will be made plain on the ballot paper that they were contesting the seat with the support of the other party.

The thorniest point looks like being what to do with sitting MPs and those 230 Liberal candidates who have already been elected. Both sides agree that all Liberal and SDP MPs should have first claim on their existing constituencies.

But yesterday's debate showed that Liberals would be very concerned if what they see as Right-wing "Labour drop-outs" were able to invoke this protection.

Party to placate these fears, and partly to intensify the pressure on MPs to quit the Labour Party if they are going to do so, Mr Rodgers suggested that no MP who joined after December 31 should expect special treatment. The Liberals argue

on both sides will have a role in these talks. Representatives of the SDP and Liberal national organisations will probably sit on these regional committees.

Above these committees will be a joint arbitration body, which will deal with the disputes which will inevitably arise. One issue still to be resolved is whether the recommendations of this arbitration body will be binding on local parties—and, given the hostility of some SDP members towards the Liberals, it would be wrong to assume that it will only be Mr Steel who faces discipline problems.

There is broad agreement that both parties should share the

Prior misses economic committee

By Richard Evans, Lobby Editor

THE PROBLEMS facing Mr James Prior, the new Northern Ireland Secretary in maintaining his influence over economic policy-making were underlined yesterday when he was unable to attend a meeting of the Cabinet's economic committee.

It was the first meeting of the influential E committee since Mrs Thatcher's reshuffle, but Mr Prior was unable to attend because of his commitments in Ulster.

One of his reasons for accepting the Northern Ireland portfolio, against his first inclination, was the offer from Mrs Thatcher of a seat on the committee.

Without that Mr Prior feared that his enforced transfer from Employment would take him right out of the key economic area and onto the sidelines.

His new role is certain to entail constant visits to the province, and he is likely to be a frequent absentee from the committee.

The significance of the E committee, which sits under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister, is that vital decisions on the economy are taken there and are then presented to the full Cabinet for ratification.

Yesterday's meeting discussed local government finance, which would not be of prime concern to Mr Prior, but through the autumn key decisions will be taken on public expenditure and on pay. Mr Prior will wish to be present.

In Belfast, Mr Prior said there had to be a political settlement in Northern Ireland, but only after stability and a degree of prosperity were returned.

Mr Prior interrupted a series of briefings during his first day in the province to talk briefly to the press at Stormont, our Belfast Correspondent writes.

He said his post was an enormous challenge, but one which he was willingly accepted.

"It was never a question of me not wanting to come to Northern Ireland, but I was playing with considerable stakes, to stay on at Employment, where I had a terrific lot of work to do."

He had been persuaded to accept the post by his wife and close friends. "I know the difficulties and problems and the limited time available, with this parliament going into its last two and a half years."

"I am quite certain there has to be a political settlement in the long term, but that can only come with stability in the society, with a degree of prosperity in the society, and individual responsibility which has to be reflected through the political machine," he said.

Mr Prior's initial discussions centred on strengthening security in the south of Londonderry, where two members of the security forces have been killed by the IRA in the past week.

He later met the heads of all Northern Ireland government departments and had talks with officials about the Maze Prison hunger strikes.

Mr Prior is expected to make several visits in the near future and could issue early invitations to the political parties for informal discussions.

MRS THATCHER is to visit the European Parliament in Strasbourg on December, it was announced yesterday.

The Prime Minister will be reporting on the outcome at the Common Market head of government summit in London at the end of November.

Tebbit stresses need for compromise and avoids confrontation

By Christian Tyler, Labour Editor

A FRESH public image for the aggressive Mr Norman Tebbit is being constructed at the Department of Employment. The new Employment Secretary opened his first Press conference yesterday by declaring that the word confrontation did not readily appear in his vocabulary.

Compromise was the normal, even democratic, way of doing things, he declared. But that did not remove the need for plain speaking at times.

Looking a little tense and speaking slowly and carefully, Mr Tebbit avoided all the traps laid for him. He criticised the trade union leadership without being rude, and sympathised with the unemployed without deviating from the Government's economic line.

He admitted that a 4 per cent cash limit for public service pay might not be very exciting, but thought the unions would see the need for it.

He dodged the closed shop issue neatly by referring to an old speech to a Party conference in which he had concluded that an outright ban on the closed shop "had a number of hazards in it."

How would his approach to industrial relations differ from that of his predecessor, Mr James Prior, he was asked.

"I think perhaps when you are close up to things as Jim was for two-and-a-half years perhaps you don't often enough stand back to look at things afresh."

"My main advantage is that I can look at it afresh, not having been steeped in it."

Mr Tebbit's recurring theme was that the unions spent too much time talking politics and not enough thinking for ways of raising productivity and competitiveness.

Asked how important wage restraint was in restoring British competitiveness he said it was "overwhelmingly important."

He would not be drawn on his plans for further trade union reform, nor whether he contemplated changing the system whereby trade unionists have to contract out of, rather than into, their union's political affiliation to the Labour Party.

Any legislation or programmes would be aimed at the twin objectives of reducing unemployment and raising real living standards, he said.

If there was confrontation, it should be confrontation with Britain's business competitors. The Government could set the climate by lowering taxes and it was the politicians' responsibility to point out the facts of economic life.

"But at the end of the day if people choose to commit industrial suicide then it is very difficult to prevent them doing so."

Asked if he had a message for industrial managers, he said the message was the same for both sides.

"Keep your heads down. Do not get involved in the politics of things. Leave that to the politicians. Get on with getting out and beating your competitors."

As an airline pilot and member of the British Air Line Pilots Association (BALPA) Mr Tebbit said he had worked hard to secure 100 per cent trade union membership among his colleagues in what was then called BOAC.

"But I am equally passionate against the closed shop," he said.

Mr Healey stressed that victory in the contest was only one essential step among many needed to restore the health of the Labour movement. "We must continue to work together after this election," he stressed.

Mr Ivor Richard, Common Market Commissioner and former Labour MP, yesterday attacked Labour's "drift to the Left," but said he had no intention of defecting to the Social Democrats.



Tebbit: avoided all the traps.

Sorting out a basis for living together

BY ELINOR GOODMAN

NEGOTIATORS FROM the Social Democrats and Liberal Party will meet within the next 10 days to resolve the realities of living together under their new alliance.

They will aim to produce guidelines to minimise territorial disputes and to reach a situation whereby the two parties fight about the same number of seats at the next election.

As everybody involved acknowledged yesterday, this could be the most difficult aspect. The biggest test over the next few months will be agreeing who contests which seats. As one speaker said yesterday: "The easy bit is agreeing the alliance; the difficult bit is putting it into practice."

There were already signs of dissent yesterday over the SDP's offer to tell MPs from other parties who might be thinking of joining that they could not expect to have a prior claim on their constituency if they joined after the end of this year.

Many Liberals believe a shutter should come down sooner, to stop the alliance from becoming a convenient "dustbin" for disenfranchised Labour MPs.

Even though the alliance was only formalised formally yesterday, talks over the guidelines for local parties are well advanced. But it still leaves the basic problem that in some areas the parties have the same idea of which are the most winnable seats.

Originally the SDP would have preferred to have carved up the constituency map nationally. But early on they had to agree in what the Liberals are presenting as a key concession—that this was not possible, given the Liberal Party's decentralised structure. SDP organisers still believe



Steel: discipline problems



Rodgers: general agreement

that Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, will have to impose some central discipline. But yesterday's debate showed how difficult it would be for Mr Steel. If he is forced to disown a candidate adopted by a rebellious local party, he will be in trouble.

Most of the negotiating will be carried out regionally. The draft guidelines produced by the Liberals envisage about 30 joint negotiating groups, each covering 20 or so constituencies. The SDP would have liked fewer groups, but seems unlikely to make an issue of this.

Despite the Liberals' insistence on the need to preserve local autonomy, headquarters

on both sides will have a role in these talks. Representatives of the SDP and Liberal national organisations will probably sit on these regional committees.

Above these committees will be a joint arbitration body, which will deal with the disputes which will inevitably arise. One issue still to be resolved is whether the recommendations of this arbitration body will be binding on local parties—and, given the hostility of some SDP members towards the Liberals, it would be wrong to assume that it will only be Mr Steel who faces discipline problems.

There is broad agreement that both parties should share the

"winnable" seats between them. The SDP draft of the guidelines is more precise about this point than the Liberal draft, which talks more vaguely about the need to "avoid imbalance."

Both versions of the guidelines make it clear that each party should fight a good mix of seats throughout the country—winnable and unwinnable; urban and rural; middle-class and working-class; Tory-held and Labour-held.

The guidelines will also probably try to spell out what is meant by the "parity of opportunity" which the SDP believes to be so important. Because there is to be no national "carve-up," there may be areas in which one party gets more seats than the other—the Liberals, for example, will probably expect to get more than half the seats in the West Country.

The SDP accepts that there may have to be imbalance in some areas, but it believes it should not be more than 3:2. The Liberals, on the other hand, are saying that there will be nothing wrong with 2:1 in some areas.

The thorniest point looks like being what to do with sitting MPs and those 230 Liberal candidates who have already been elected. Both sides agree that all Liberal and SDP MPs should have first claim on their existing constituencies.

But yesterday's debate showed that Liberals would be very concerned if what they see as Right-wing "Labour drop-outs" were able to invoke this protection.

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There is broad agreement that both parties should share the

form of funding and responsibility is required, it says.

On police, Mr Burgess says only the Metropolitan Police are directly responsible to an elected institution—the Home Secretary. "It is not a question of day-to-day control of the police, but of an acceptable way of enabling a professional service to be publicly accountable," he says.

The paper stops short, however, of suggestions as to how this might be achieved.

The long-term goal for structure would be single tier all-purpose authorities, requiring the abolition of the metropolitan counties and the reorganisation of the rest on the basis of the existing shire counties.

No mention is made of the best way of reorganising London's local government, which is a more difficult problem because of the unsuitability of some London boroughs to take over some Greater London Council functions if the GLC is abolished.

The paper's arguments on finance revolve around the author's long-held conviction that rates (an annual property tax) are both a good form of taxation and particularly suited to local government.

Many of the problems associated with them could be removed by basing them on a

capital valuation with regular revaluations. Agricultural land and buildings, derated since 1929, should return to the rating base.

Other forms of taxation to bolster rate income should be looked at, Mr Burgess says, but he cautions against local income tax as the only or major source of finance, mainly because of the increased danger of central interference which it would create.

The paper wholly ignores the difficult and contentious problem of the commercial and industrial rate.

All political parties are wrestling with this problem and the concept of abolishing rates altogether, and all are finding it difficult to come up with a better, buoyant high-yield alternative.

Mr Burgess says: "Proposals to abolish the rates must actually be fraudulent. No government can or will give up an annual tax on property yielding £7.7bn (1980-81). The real question is only who is to collect this tax."

If the SDP conferences adopt his paper the answer is that a stronger local government would collect it. But there are no signs that the ratepayers would receive their bills any more graciously than they do now.

SDP paper suggests big council changes

BY ROBIN PAULEY

WIDE-RANGING changes in the structures, responsibilities and financing of local government are foreshadowed in the Social Democrats' first discussion paper on "local government and finance," which will be debated at the party's conference next month.

The paper has been prepared by Mr Tyrone Burgess, reader in the philosophy of social institutions at the North Essex London Polytechnic and chairman of Croydon Social Democrats.

It proposes greater decentralisation and a strengthening of both local democracy and accountability. The main ideas include:

- Encouraging local authorities to decentralise their functions, even, perhaps to tenants' associations;
- Ways of making local authorities the health and police authorities for their areas;
- Avoiding new tiers of local government and seeking, in the long term, single tier multi-purpose authorities;
- Retaining rates but reforming and improving them while investigating supplementary sources of income, local taxes, and a simplified method of distributing a smaller central government grant.

Mr Burgess outlines the proposals from the starting point that if democratic institutions do not work locally they will not work at all and that if local government is to be successful it must be responsible.

His argument is far defined local autonomy but it remains to be seen whether the Social Democrats could resist the temptation which all other parties in power have found irresistible to "draw more, rather than less, power to the centre."

This is particularly likely when local autonomy produces local and spending decisions contrary to those at the centre.

The paper argues that responsible local democracy provides services which are largely personal and so must be responsive to the needs of individuals, who need convenient access to the point of decision making.

Mr Burgess suggests, also, that responsible local democracy actually improves the accountability of central government.

"The task of a secretary of state has become unimaginably detailed and complex, which has in turn increased the power of the central bureaucracy. Elected ministers cannot possibly know what is happening and they cannot reasonably be

held to account by parliament. "The habit of ministerial resignation has died out because nobody believes that a minister is responsible for anything," he writes.

Local government could be strengthened by the clear establishment of principles for the distribution of powers and duties between different levels of administration.


Decisions on problems concerning the service to individuals should be made by professionals, who should be immediately accountable, along with their institutions.

Problems of provision—buildings, staff, and other resources—would be best handled by democratically elected local authorities.

Problems of control—overall policy and resources decisions, regulations and inspection—can be performed by a secretary of state and he could reasonably be held accountable to parliament for these functions.

The paper cites the health service and police service as two areas where the division between the various levels is ineffective or unsuitable.

All responsibility in the health service resides with the secretary of state acting through tiers of health authorities which are not directly accountable to any electorate. Simultaneous re-



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Date of Closing Transfer Books and Registers of Members

14 to 20 November

7 to 13 October

15 to 21 October

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By Order of the Boards,
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London Secretaries:
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15 September, 1981.

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By Order of the Board,
C. E. PARKEN, Secretary.

ADELAIDE, 15 September 1981.

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LOMBARD

Ideology and the Channel tunnel

BY NICHOLAS COLCHESTER

DEAN SWIFT would have enjoyed the sight of the French President and British Prime Minister as they solemnly declared their joint intention of building a channel tunnel "taking care, of course, that both countries stick to their own ideas regarding financing methods".

Just as the Big Enders and the Little Enders took a radically different approach to cracking the same boiled egg, so a great ideological gap separates the attitudes of the two countries to tunnel finance. The French Government will raise the money by selling bonds to the public, while the British Government will provide a consortium with such re-assurances that it feels able to do the same thing.

The unwillingness of the British Government to play the entrepreneur is founded upon good intentions. It is Mrs Thatcher's stern antidote to the public's ingrained expectation that the Government can provide under all circumstances. It is her reminder that the Government has no magic way of removing risks and ensuring rewards, short of disguising errors under the cloak of inflation.

But when projects or businesses achieve a national dimension the Government's insistence on free market principles starts to throw up obvious inconsistencies. It was inconsistent of the Government, at the start of its term, to allow the state energy monopolies to put up their prices when subject to none of the competitive pressures burdening their industrial customers. It was inconsistent of the Government to assume that the private sector could take an entrepreneurial view of the North Sea gas-gathering pipeline when the British Gas monopoly had sole rights to buy whatever gas was there to be gathered.

In both these situations free enterprise was being asked to operate under artificial circumstances. And so it will be in the case of the Channel Tunnel. The risks and rewards facing the private backers of the venture will be greatly influenced by the Government. The British Government will be forced to arbitrate in the inevitable arguments about the impact of the tunnel on the landscape of

Kent. Its stance here will decide the cost of the project and the permitted flow of traffic. The flint-eyed sentinels of Customs and Excise will determine the rate at which motor-cars will flow through a road tunnel. Will they perfect the casual wave of European border crossings? Or will they continue to view each incoming car as a potential cache of Continental luxuries, drugs and rabid lapdogs?

It is hard to see how the prices charged by tunnel operators can be determined by free market forces. Rival ports and ferry services will face a monopoly project backed by an indefinable degree of subsidy, and will loudly press their cause. The French have already made it clear their view of the tunnel as a European project which will merit financial support from Brussels. So the prospect facing private British financiers is almost inevitably one of Government intervention in tunnel fares.

Profit motive

It seems probable, moreover, that the profit motive of the private tunnel developers and the environmental constraints imposed by the Government will find themselves on a collision course. Sir Alec Cairncross warned a House of Commons select committee that a tunnel designed only for normal trains would prove a short-sighted investment. Others, including Mr Ian MacGregor of British Steel, have the still bolder hunch that it will take the profits of a road tunnel to subsidise the sections set aside for trains.

The scene may be set, therefore, for a repeat of the endless Gas Pipeline saga. The private sector will only be willing to finance a variation of the project which the Government will be unable to permit and it will suggest that the Government compensates with financial guarantees.

The tunnel is one of those projects where private consortia may propose but it is Government, in the end, which disposes. The effect of the tunnel on the real economy and on the level of interest rates will thereafter be almost identical whether the public's savings are tapped in private or in public fashion.

Freedom of the Press and the P2 scandal

By A. H. Hermann, Legal Correspondent, recently in Italy

THE CONTEMPT OF COURT Act, which came into force last month, can hardly be described as an advance for Press freedom. Journalists have to put down their pens and broadcasters must abandon their microphones as soon as an arrest is made or a warrant for an arrest is granted.

In civil disputes silence is imposed on them from the time the case is set down for trial. Before matters have reached this stage, they are kept at bay by the laws of libel and on privacy.

These laws can prevent a British newspaper from informing its readers about an American newspaper report which has had a considerable impact on Wall Street. There had better not be a Watergate-type scandal in Britain — Fleet Street's journalists are no longer allowed to uncover it.

These complaints are familiar and they are justified. But reading them in Italy, where the body politic is still rocked by tremors caused by the P2 scandal, one is reminded of the other side of the problem, and one starts to wonder: however bad the law of contempt appears to be when considered in England, it seems a blessing in view of the Italian experience.

In the spring of this year the Italian Press reported that documents seized by the police

proved the existence of a masonic lodge called Propaganda 2 and that its business was bribery, blackmail and espionage.

Before anyone could even be accused in court of such deeds, the Government was toppled; almost all heads of the armed and security services, including the chief of the general staff, were dismissed, leading politicians disappeared from the limelight, top civil servants were demoted, the editors of important newspapers, and of state radio and television were sacked. Their fate was sealed because their names appeared on the membership list of P2, the existence of which has not been proved to this day.

One of those arrested in May, soon after the fall started rolling, was Sig Roberto Calvi, head of one of Italy's big financial empires. In July he was found guilty of illegally exporting currency, sentenced to four years' imprisonment and fined the equivalent of £60,000. Three of his associates were also jailed and fined, while six others were found not guilty.

At the centre of the P2 scandal is Sig Licio Gelli, alleged grand master of the allegedly masonic lodge. He seems to have fled to Uruguay, where he has banking interests after he was charged with espionage and political conspiracy together with other alleged members of the lodge. The prosecutor leading the inquiry described the lodge as "a criminal association, whose controllers had meticulously manipulated facts and events with the aim of carrying out their planned, illegal programme."

Like most Italian scandals, the P2 is riddled with small and big mysteries. The Uruguay police were reported to have seized and then returned 500 Gelli's villa in Montevideo, but the Rome police officers who arrived in Montevideo to retrieve the files were sent back empty-handed. But, quite credibly, five packages of incriminating documents were said to have been found in a false-bottomed suitcase brought by Sig Gelli's daughter on her return to Italy. She was put in Rome's top-security prison.

Many of the personalities on the P2 membership list claim that Sig Gelli put their names there without their knowledge. One of those listed as a member of P2 was Sig Pietro Longo, secretary of the Social Democratic Party. He denies that he was ever a member of the lodge.

In Sig Longo's view, the administration of justice is Italy's greatest problem at present. Because it is impossible to prevent publicity, every Italian who faces an investigation is immediately assumed to have been convicted.

The investigations of the P2 scandal started in Milan. One argument that is often heard is that the Milan judges were under the influence of the Communist Party. The transfer of the investigation from Milan to Rome was seen as an attempt to counteract this influence and to put the brakes on.

There is no doubt that the Communist Party profited from the scandal. Its leader, Sig Enrico Berlinguer, argued that a reputation could be avoided only by Communist participation in government. And when the P2 is described by the Press as the conspiratorial centre of political power, one is reminded of the terminology used by the Stalinist Press in the early 1950s, when an entire generation of Communist leaders was sent to the gallows and to prison on the allegation that they formed alternative political centres in the satellite countries.

Later on, when Khrushchev took over in Moscow, these Communist leaders were rehabilitated posthumously. In Italy, some of the victims of

character assassination were junkies. Sig Paolo Baffi was removed from his post as president of the Italian central bank but lived to see the day when the accusations made against him were disproved. Others suffered a similar fate.

To explain away what has happened in Italy by the absence of a law of contempt,

has much deeper roots the political involvement of judges and the lack of discretion on the part of the Press would be a gross oversimplification. The "moral emergency," to use the words of the present Prime Minister, Sig Giovanni Spadolini, has much deeper roots.

The contrast between the poverty of the south and the relative affluence of the north of Italy is reflected in the extremes of squalor and elegance throughout Italy. The brutal methods of the Sicilian and Sardinian Mafia are reflected in the conspiratorial character of Italian business and politics.

In a system where every political and business organisation is infiltrated by its enemy, there are no secrets. There

can only be an agreement to pretend that irregularities do not exist.

The best police system in the world would find it difficult to cope in such a situation, and the Italian police system is not the best: its three components, the police, the Carabinieri, and the fiscal police, are too jealous to co-operate with each other. As long as the general lawlessness meant only double sets of business accounts, bribes and kidnappings prompted by individual motives, such as revenge or a ransom, Italians seemed to accept it as the price to be paid for living in such a beautiful country.

But it alarms them to hear that corruption of business and politics has reached a stage where individual infringements of the law are merged into a system of Government. Whether it is called P2 or another name is not important. Another cause for alarm is the metamorphosis of the Red Brigades from terrorist groups with political aims to a political party using terror as its opening gambit in negotiations. Against this background, the Italians find it futile to consider the fines of business and Press law.

A law of contempt could hardly stem the general lawlessness in Italy; in the same way a bit more freedom for the Press would hardly endanger essentially law-abiding Britain.

Rhyme Royal has the class

FURTHER HIGH class racing is promised for Ayr this afternoon where the Ladbrokes Ayrshire Handicap is followed by the Jack Jarvis memorial nursery and the Harry Rosebery challenge trophy.

Nine stood their ground at the final declaration stage for the mile and three furlongs Ayrshire

RACING

BY DOMINIC WIGAN

handicap, including Bonol, Rhyme Royal and Fine Sun. There would be no more popular result here than a victory for the Queen through the six-year-old Rhyme Royal and it seems quite possible that it will be forthcoming. Rhyme Royal was off the course for three months before putting 25 lengths between himself and

Town Sky in an eight runner event in the Crown Plus Two apprentice series at Chester on August 22. He is a proven performer under stiff weight in middle-distance handicaps.

The gelding was third to Bonol in Doncaster's Sports Chronicle spring handicap some 14 weeks before that success. He can easily turn the tables on that northern rival, whom he meets on 15 lb better terms.

A greater threat to Rhyme Royal is likely to come from either Fine Sun or from Felwell.

The Sally Hall-trained Fine Blade chestnut Fine Sun is now returning to the form which saw him besting Milk of the Barley in a competitive nine furlong event at Ripon four months ago. Felwell comes into the reckoning on his creditable display over a trip beyond his

optimum at Newbury last time out.

There is likely to be little in it at the finish but I suspect that Rhyme Royal's class can see him through against Felwell, to whom he will be conceding 27 lbs.

Fairy Tern is clearly one of Ian Balding's better two-year-olds and I would not be surprised to see him in the Harry Rosebery challenge trophy.

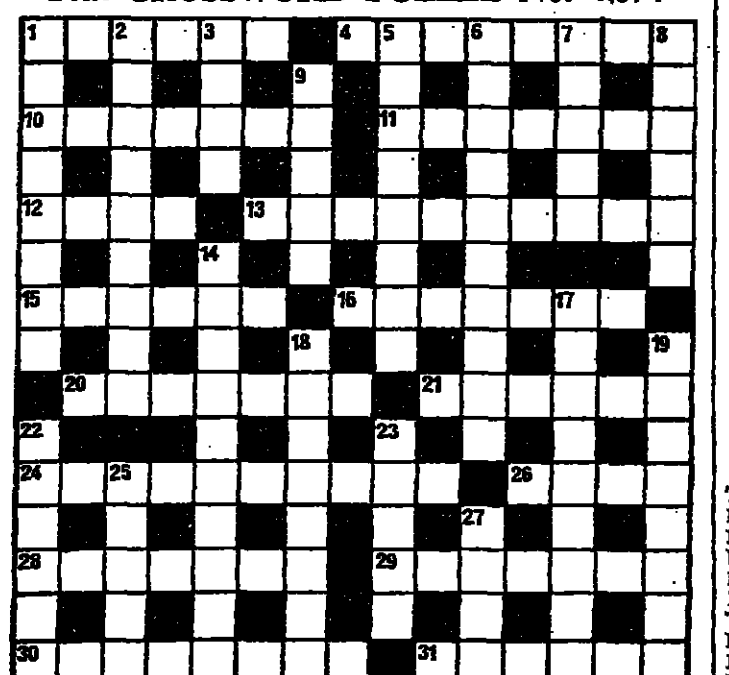
AYR
2.00—Angus
2.30—Angus
3.00—Rhyme Royal
3.30—Saddlers Creek
4.00—Fairy Tern
4.30—Velvet Habit
YARMOUTH
2.45—Something Special
3.15—Deal On
3.45—Balaclava
4.15—Hoot Hay

TV/Radio

† Indicates programme in black and white

BBC 1
6.40-7.55 am Open University (12.30 pm News After Noon, 12.57 Regional News for England (except London), 1.00 Pebble Mill at One, 1.45-2.00 Chigley, 2.55 The Skill of Lip-reading, 3.53 Regional News for England (except London), 3.55 Play School, 4.30 Puzzle Trail, 4.35 Scooby Doo, 4.55 John Craven's Newround, 5.05 Blue Peter, 5.35 Wilko the Wisp.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 4674



- ACROSS**
- 1 My sets are put in order (6)
 - 2 What Adam had to do to make Eve something to eat (5, 3)
 - 3 Agreement to exclude profit (7)
 - 4 As off as any passion under heaven that doth — our nature" (Hamlet) (7)
 - 5 Colour for one in explosive surroundings (4)
 - 6 Turn for information among coppers for priority (10)
 - 7 Cup leaped to an American sailor (6)
 - 8 Comparatively candid for one who authorises free delivery (7)
 - 9 Bird that suggests activity of the Red Devils (7)
 - 10 Fur of the coyote (6)
 - 11 Needs careful dressing to attract the customers (4, 6)
 - 12 Cast off in this hedonistic environment (4)
 - 13 Residence of old woman un-instructed in family planning (3, 1, 4)
 - 14 Bachelors take quickly to a musical instrument (7)
 - 15 It is very French to disregard a sin (8)
 - 16 A carrier—he said he was willing (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Wild destruction to clog the times (8)
 - 2 International player brings Kop to order (9)
 - 3 Finished up with cheese (4)
 - 4 Where to entrain for a party programme (8)
 - 5 Popular vote to end free run (10)
 - 6 You find a horse in a curb as a rule (5)
 - 7 Coat in the larder (6)
 - 8 It turned out to be a Boojum (5)
 - 9 Don goes on board for friendly intercourse (10)
 - 10 A change of heart over Labour might be a defence (9)
 - 11 A petticoat incorporated in Fleet Street (8)
 - 12 So —, so —, or die" (Ruddigore) (6, 2)
 - 13 Help a relative in a street (6)
 - 14 Something underhand gets by in the corridor (5)
 - 15 Descriptive of Humpty Dumpty (5)
 - 16 Used by the Titans as a stepping stone to Olympus (4)

Solution to Puzzle No. 4673

DOWN
1 WILF
2 KOP
3 CHEESE
4 TRAM
5 BOOJUM
6 COAT
7 BOOJUM
8 BOOJUM
9 BOOJUM
10 BOOJUM
11 BOOJUM
12 BOOJUM
13 BOOJUM
14 BOOJUM
15 BOOJUM
16 BOOJUM

BBC 2

6.40-7.55 am Open University, 9.30 Liberal Party Assembly in Llandudno, 11.00 Play School, 11.25-12.30 pm and 1.45 onwards Liberal Party Assembly, 4.50 Open University, 6.55 Schools Prom, 7.25 News Summary, 7.45 Animation at Cambridge, 7.45 Southampton International Boat Show, 8.30 Fame, 9.00 Folk, 9.30 "Mourning Becomes Electra" by Eugene O'Neill, 10.20 Jack High, 10.50 Newswatch, 11.45 Leeds International Piano Competition.

LONDON

9.30 am World Famous Fairy Tales, 9.40 Cider (Chicago), 10.30 It Could Happen to You, 11.20 A Big Country, 11.50 Barry Google and Snuffy Smith, 12.00 Gammon and Spinach, 12.10 pm Get Up and Go! 12.30 The Sullivan, 1.00 News, plus TV Index, 1.20 Thames News, 1.30 Sports Desk, 1.50 Punch Today, 2.25 One of a Kind, 3.25 Liberal Party Assembly, 4.15 Mice Follies, 4.20 Sierra, 5.15 Emmerdale Farm, 5.45 News, 6.00 Thames News, 6.30 WKRP in Cincinnati, 7.00 Sounds Like London, 7.30 "Telefon," starring Charles Bronson, Donald Pleasence and Lee

(S) Stereo/Phono broadcast
† Medium Wave

RADIO 1

5.00 am As Radio 2, 7.00 Steve Wright, 8.00 Simon Bates, 11.00 Andy Peebles, 12.30 pm Newsbeat, 12.45 Paul Burnett, 2.30 Dave Lee Travis, 4.30 Peter Powell, 7.00 Paul McCartney with a specialisation of Diana Ross, 8.00 Richard Skinner, 10.00-12.00 John Peel (S).

RADIO 2

6.00 am Steve Jones (S), 7.30 Terry Wogan (S), 10.00 Jimmy Young (S), 12.00 John Dunn (S), 2.00 Ed Stewart, 3.00 including Racing from Ayr, 4.02 David Hamilton (S), 5.45 News, Sport, 6.00 Don Durbridge with Match Mosaic (S), 6.00 Country Club with Wally Whiston (S), 9.00 Alan Dale with The Big Band Sound (S), 9.55 Sports Desk, 10.50 Punch Today, 10.30 Star Sound Extras, 11.00 Peter Clayton with Round Midnight, 1.00 am Truckers' Hour (S), 2.00-3.00 You and the Night and the Music (S).

RADIO 3

6.55 am Weather, 7.00 News, 7.05 Morning Concert (S), 8.00 News, 8.05 Morning Concert (continued), 9.00 News, 9.05 This Week's Composer: Thomas Tallis (S), 9.45 Tiffani Festival Ensemble (S), 10.15 Northern University Concert (S), 10.45 Southern University Concert (S), 11.00 News, 11.05 Concert, part 1 (S), 1.00 News, 1.05 Concert, part 2 (S), 1.50 Stevens and Rostworowski (S), 2.45 "Les

SCOTLAND

12.54-1.00 pm The Scottish News, 6.00-6.55 Report on Scotland, 11.45 News Headlines, News and Weather for Scotland, Northern Ireland — 12.57-1.00 pm Northern Ireland News, 3.30-3.55 Northern Ireland News, 6.00-6.25 Scene Around Six, 10.15-10.45 Four to One, 11.35 News Headlines, News and Weather for Northern Ireland, 11.55-12.00 News Headlines, News and Weather for England, 6.00-6.25 pm Look East (Norwich); Look North (Leeds); Look North (Newcastle); Look North-West (Manchester); Midlands Today (Birmingham); Nationwide (London and South-East); Points West (Bristol); South Today (Southampton); Spotlight South-West (Plymouth).

ATV

9.30 am Larry the Lamb in Toytown, 9.45 The Last of the Mohicans, 10.10 Jerusalem, 11.00 Sesame Street, 1.20 pm ATV News, 2.25 Afternoon Playhouse, 3.25 Treasure Island, 4.00 ATV News, 6.00 Crossroads, 6.30 ATV Today, 7.00 Emmerdale Farm, 12.15 am Late News.

BORDER

9.30 am Tarzan, 10.30 World We Live In, 10.50 Sundry, 11.10 Little House on the Prairie, 1.20 pm Border News, 2.25 Afternoon Playhouse, 3.25 Treasure Island, 4.00 ATV News, 6.00 Crossroads, 6.30 ATV Today, 7.00 Emmerdale Farm, 12.15 am Late News.

CHANNEL

1.20 pm Channel Lunchtime News, What's On Where, and Weather, 2.25 News, 3.25 Crossroads, 7.00 Walking Westward, 10.20 Channel Late News, 12.15 am News and Weather in French.

GRANADA

9.40 am The Submarine, 9.55 Pavilion Folk, 10.10 The Amazing Years of Cinema, 10.40 A Big Country, 11.10 The World We Live In, 11.35 Playhouse, 1.20 pm North News, 2.25 Afternoon Playhouse, 4.20 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 4.50 North Tonight, 5.20 Police News, 6.00 Crossroads, 7.00 It's George, 12.15 am North Headlines.

TYNE TEES

9.30 am The Good World, 9.35 North-East News, 9.30 The Human Face of China, 10.00 Morning Movie, 10.30 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 11.00 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 11.30 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 12.00 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 12.30 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 1.00 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 1.30 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 2.00 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 2.30 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 3.00 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 3.30 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 4.00 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 4.30 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 5.00 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 5.30 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 6.00 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 6.30 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 7.00 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 7.30 The Further Adventures of Oliver Twist, 8.00 The Further Adventures of Oliver 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ADVERTISING AND MARKETING

BY MICHAEL THOMPSON-NOEL

Brain storming in Oxford

Antony Thorncroft visits the Creative Circle's role reversal seminar

ONCE AGAIN the world turned upside down for a few days at Oxford last week, when the Creative Circle held its 14th annual role reversal seminar, the occasion when agency creative men become "clients" and get the chance to show off before marketing executives who are herded into "agencies" and forced to produce instant campaigns for imaginary products.

It is a bit like Christmas day in the army when the officers make the tea.

This has always been the main event in the Creative Circle's year, and rarely do the delegates depart without feeling slightly chastened, more conscious of the problem agencies face, and stimulated by the frenzied brain storming.

There are, perhaps, also opportunities for creative people to advertise their talents (and their agencies) and for marketing executives, usually around the brand manager level, to swap experiences and plot new careers, with a band of contemporaries.

Unfortunately, the recession has hit even this generally appreciated course, which costs companies like Boots, General Foods, Beecham, UB and Spillers £400 per delegate. Registrations were down below 50, and the Circle is considering going biennial to make it more of an event.

Although there have been profound changes in the relationship between agencies and clients since the role reversal seminars began — clients have grown in sophistication and marketing know-how and are starting to exploit their agencies rather than hold them in awe — the agency men always remain on top here, with the delegates quite willing to lapse into student behaviour.

Perhaps there is a case for companies sending more senior men on the course who could answer back with more confidence and who could relate the business of agency presentation to their own experience.

There is a danger that by the time some of the participants have the power to hire and fire agencies, they will have forgotten the lessons.

This year the delegates grouped into agencies to compete for three accounts — to create an advertising campaign to cut down on vandalism among young people; a second to dissuade very young children from smoking; and a third designed to reduce pregnancies among teenage girls, a tricky proposition since it had to promote contraception while not condoning promiscuity.

There was one day for the "agencies" to prepare their campaign, with the use of a studio to make a video commercial and another day to amend their ideas after the first

presentation. The final results were shown on Sunday morning.

Some of the ideas, finished commercials, and accompanying art work would not disgrace agencies: there were few out-and-out disasters. This is as it should be, given the bunting of intelligence these days between companies and agencies. The three campaigns for The Society for the Promotion of Contraceptive Knowledge (Spock) were most impressive, in particular the winning commercial which used the titles of pop songs, pressed by teenagers gathered around a juke box, to warn of the danger in casual sex.

The anti-vandalism commercials produced an interesting case history which must often happen in reality. One "agency" devised a clever commercial depicting Gray Jolliffe as a vandal who, while boasting of his trail of destruction at some friends, visibly shrinks before their eyes.

The pay-off line was: "Vandals — funny little people aren't they?"

It was a nice idea, nicely presented, but the "clients" were unhappy about the slogan. They wanted the "agency" to change "funny" to "strange" at the first presentation, but could only hint at the improvement.

The "agency" team took the light criticism to heart and produced a whole range of alternative and derivative slogans and

lost an account that was in their grip. This shows up a weakness in the format. If an "agency" comes up with a brilliant commercial after Day One, it can't be accepted because it would be idle for the rest of the seminar. So the "client" must criticise, sometimes with adverse results.

The aim of the seminar is to make both sides of the advertising world aware of the restrictions they labour under, and the main benefits are not the pretty commercials but the personal contacts and the comments at the briefing sessions.

Perhaps the creative participants gain most. Len Weinreich, president of the Circle, admitted his horror in observing delegates aping agency people in their use of jargon, obsequiousness and obsequy.

The major criticism of the temporary "agencies" that they failed to understand their brief, could also be applied to real agencies.

The folk tale is that Guinness switched its advertising to J. Walter Thompson as a result of a bravura performance by Jeremy Bullmore, JWT's London chairman, at a vice versa seminar. Over the years the contacts made at Oxford may be cemented by business, but the main benefit is not financial but the experience of working under pressure, plus the sight of top creative talents competing among themselves.

Supermarkets put on a pretty profitable face

BY DAVID CHURCHILL



Supermarket chains Safeway and Sainsbury's are spearheading attempts to bring about a radical change in the firm's year cosmetics industry. The two supermarkets have just started selling their own-label range of cosmetics and other chains will almost certainly follow suit.

The implications of this move are enormous: the aim is to break the hegemony of the major cosmetics houses who steadfastly refuse to sell their main brands to supermarkets. If the supermarkets are successful, then the way in which millions of women buy their cosmetics will change irrevocably, prices will almost certainly be lower, and the vast budgets spent on advertising to maintain the "magic" will be in jeopardy.

The reasoning behind the latest move is simple. The cosmetics industry is suffering badly from the effects of the current economic recession as women are forced to cut back their spending on cosmetics. Figures produced by the Euro monitor company show that while sales grew in value by almost a tenth last year, in real terms (taking 1975 as the base year) sales actually declined by about 4 per cent. Revlon, one of the largest companies in the industry, is currently being forced to shed production staff, although expanding its marketing efforts to try to sell its way out of the slump.

In previous recessions, the industry has always found that women were still prepared to spend as much on cosmetics to help chase the blues away. This time, however, the depth and severity of the recession has made consumers more conscious of the need to find good value rather than just a good image. Thus, there has been a trading up from low-budget cosmetics (which consumers see as being cheap) and a trading down from the top end of the range (as women more readily believe that they are paying over the odds for an image rather than a product).

Into this situation have stepped the supermarkets. Most of the major chains have sold some down-market cosmetic ranges for some time and last year Revlon also agreed to let a few stores test-market its "Natural Wonder" range. However, the manufacturers have refused to let the super-

markets have the main brands because of fears that selling beauty products next to tinned beans would harm the cosmetics' image.

A more telling reason, however, for the manufacturers' refusal has been fears that supermarkets would start a price-cutting war.

Safeway and Sainsbury's have responded by a different tactic. Both decided that if the manufacturers would not supply them with their main brands, they would seek to establish their own-label versions. The logic behind this is that Sainsbury's in particular has established a strong reputation for own-label quality.

The supermarkets feel that if they can offer middle-range cosmetics at a price below that of major brands, then women customers will be only too willing to buy their cosmetics along with the cat-food. Sainsbury's reported yesterday that already the response to its "J" range was "very encouraging."

The supermarkets are not alone in seeking to upset the status quo in the cosmetics industry. The Argos discount stores group, which has just started selling jewellery with some success, confirmed yesterday that it had been refused

supplies by most of the major cosmetic companies and had subsequently complained to the Office of Fair Trading.

Nevertheless, Argos has managed to obtain supplies of some brand cosmetics through what it describes as "grey" sources, i.e. suppliers other than the manufacturers themselves.

If the supermarkets and others like Argos are able to force manufacturers to supply main brands or establish new own-label brands — then the structure of the trade could undergo considerable change.

At present, the UK market is crowded with brands and manufacturers although some 20 companies control about two-thirds of the business. These 20 are the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to carry out a fuller study. Alternatively, the Commission could be asked to carry out a full-scale probe into the complex monopoly enjoyed by the major manufacturers.

In addition to its manufacturing stake, Boots has about 40 per cent of retail sales — by far the largest single outlet — and is well ahead of other chemists which have about 15 per cent of trade. Department stores have 9 per cent of the market and grocery outlets, mainly the small independent grocer selling a few lines of down-market ranges, has 12 per cent. The rest of the market share is split

between other outlets, such as Woolworths, or direct-selling.

Apart from the threat imposed by the recession and the attempts by supermarkets to establish rival own-label brands, the major manufacturers also face Government action over their distribution policies. The Office of Fair Trading has already obtained assurances from them that they will not try unlawfully to enforce resale price maintenance on retailers. But the OFT is also considering taking further action under the new Competition Act. This would give it the power to investigate the trading practices of a particular supplier and then ask the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to carry out a fuller study. Alternatively, the Commission could be asked to carry out a full-scale probe into the complex monopoly enjoyed by the major manufacturers.

The combined effect in the 1980s of the supermarkets selling cosmetics and the Government probing the trade will most likely be to dispel some of the magic that surrounds the images created by cosmetic companies. Whether women will thank the OFT or Sainsbury's for this is another matter...

New-wave shops in jubilant mood

NEWS THAT Wight Collins Rutherford Scott has captured Phillips' £4m small appliances account from Wasey Campbell-Ewald, underlines the growing success enjoyed by the top handful of London's new agencies.

It also emphasises the troubled run of Interpublic, the U.S. group of which Wasey is part, writes Michael Thompson-Neel.

Phillips' small appliances account had been at Wasey's 20 years or more, but the

agency now faces a review of Phillips' video business, valued at around £5m. The other contenders are reported as Leagas Delaney, which recently celebrated its first birthday in no uncertain style, Saatchi and Saatchi, Interlink, and McCormick Intermark-Farner. Phillips' small appliances business is made up of Philips-shave, Ladyshave, personal care products, such as hair dryers and health lamps, and home appliances, including kitchen and food preparation aids and domestic heating.

The gain marks an important step for Wight Collins Rutherford Scott, which along with Grandfield Rork Collins, which celebrated its second birthday this week, and the much-younger Lowe & Howard-Spink, as well as Leagas Delaney, heads the growing band of new-wave

shops that in the past 30 months have snapped and worried at the heels of much bigger rivals.

Billings at WCRS are now put at £17m. It has 16 clients, including Qualcast, Portland Holidays, Brutus Jeans, BMW, Candy Domestic Appliances, and Standard Brands, and a staff of 44. It was required to make no speculative presentation for the Phillips account. Philips approached the agency after reading an agency house ad in this newspaper earlier this year, and speaking to several of WCRS's clients.

Wasey's, like McCann-Erickson, is part of Interpublic, which in the six months to June 30 1981 saw net income fall 36 per cent, from \$10.4m (\$3.22 per share) to \$6.7m (\$1.43 per share), though gross income rose 2.7 per cent to \$208m for the first half.

BMG Microsystems
Are now suppliers of Microcomputers to
British Embassy-Paris

To find out why, ask Tony Leach on Swindon 37813

A page on
ORACLE is what
you might call
a commercial
proposition.

Selling a product or service on television can seem very expensive.

In some cases prohibitively so. Hence the noticeable absence of many of the household names from many households.

But this need not be the case, because now you can have a message on TV for fourteen hours a day, seven days a week, and pay less than £400 for the pleasure.

This remarkable set of circumstances is due entirely to ITV and their new teletext system: ORACLE.

ORACLE is a highly entertaining, highly relevant and virtually instant information service. And it's free to use.

Launched on September 14th with a heavyweight advertising campaign (you've probably seen the ads) ORACLE is already generating a lot of interest.

Under the circumstances, the campaign theme of 'Page the ORACLE' seems particularly appropriate, because that's exactly what the bargain hungry public are up to.

For them it's fun, but for you the advertiser, it's a workhorse. And this is how. You can run specific information on prices, models, distributors and availability.

You can run special offers and track the response. You can update the pages you're running, and if you're rich enough to be screening conventional commercials already, you can even put an ORACLE page number on the end of them.

So people are not only convinced you make, for the sake of argument the best car, they can also find out at the touch of a button where they might conveniently lay their hands on one.

An intriguing proposition, a Page on ORACLE.

And if you contact Humphrey Metzger, the Sales and Marketing Controller, at the address below, he'll expand on how it's a commercial one too.

ORACLE Teletext Ltd, 11 Maddox Street, London W1 Tel: 01-629 4031

ORACLE

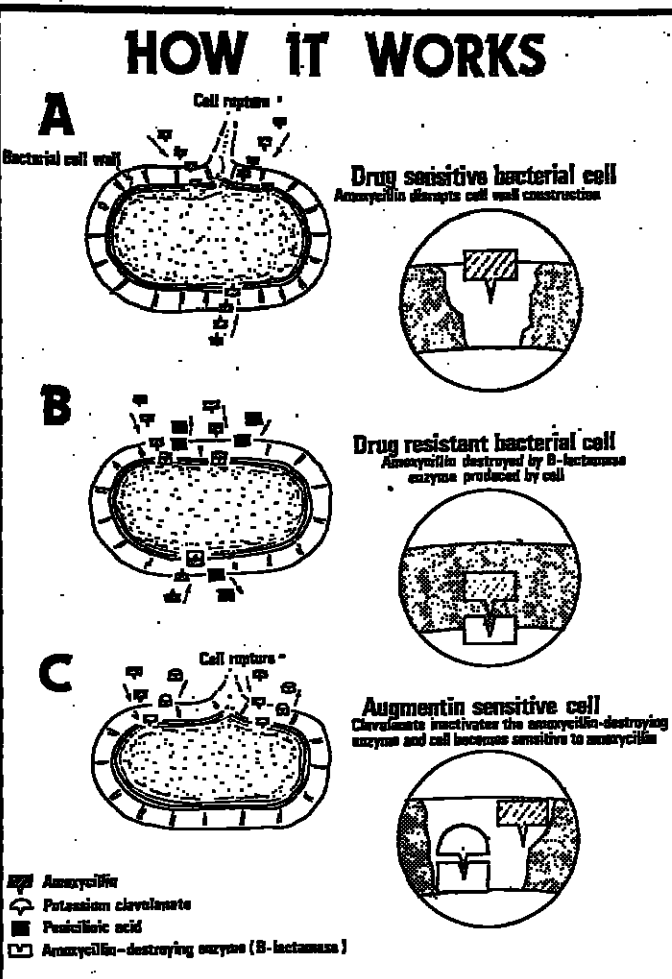
For the very latest information,
page the ORACLE.

TECHNOLOGY

EDITED BY ALAN CANE

Beecham breaches defences of resistant microbes

AN oral antibiotic has been discovered by Beecham scientists and promises a powerful ally for doctors in the fight against resistant microbes. DAVID FISHLOCK reports



BEECHAM scientists have discovered a chemical which breaches the defences erected by many microbes against antibiotics. A drug called Augmentin, announced yesterday by Beecham Pharmaceuticals, combines the chemical with a semi-synthetic penicillin, to give doctors a new oral antibiotic to fight the problem of bacterial resistance to antibiotics.

Augmentin is the outcome of a search that began 20 years ago at Brockham Park in Surrey, group research headquarters of Beecham Pharmaceuticals and centre for its chemotherapeutic research.

The scientists were looking for a particular kind of drug activity. This was a lethal effect on enzymes of the kind which increasingly were destroying penicillin and preventing it from curing diseases which previously had succumbed readily to the drug.

About 10 years ago they found that a mould originally discovered in a South American soil contained a substance which completely inactivated the offending enzyme, beta-lactamase. Then began the long process of proving its efficacy and

safety, learning how to co-set the organism and cultivate it in large quantities.

Their idea from the outset was to combine it with one of the company's range of antibiotics to make a more versatile drug, capable of tackling diseases such as pneumonia, bronchitis and boils, which, through antibiotic resistance, were taking longer to cure and sometimes even proving fatal.

Winner

The chemical they found in the mould *Streptomyces clavuligerus* was christened clavulanic acid by the Beecham scientists. It has a structural resemblance to the nucleus of penicillin, which helps to explain why it works so well. They found that the potassium salt worked best.

Potassium clavulanate "comes pretty close to ideal," claims Dr Martin Cole, a senior biochemist and one of the project group which made the discovery. He likens the problem to picking the winner of the Grand National. "It's no good picking a horse that's just good at jumping Beecher's Brook. It's got to be pretty good at jumping all the fences." With potassium clavulanate,

the most exciting discovery was that it would inhibit the activity of both Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria. For the biochemists this was a big jump forward, opening the possibility of an antibiotic with a broader spectrum than ever before.

The next stroke of good fortune was that potassium clavulanate could be administered as a pill, and moreover was tasteless.

How it works is illustrated in the accompanying sketches. Sketch A shows how molecules of a penicillin — in this case, ampicillin — attack a bacterium, rupturing its cell wall so that the pathogen dies.

But a bacterium which has developed a resistance to antibiotics produces the enzyme beta-lactamase, located close to the inner boundary of the cell wall. This enzyme locks with and destroys the antibiotic, leaving the cell wall intact and the disease unimpeded (Sketch B).

Clinical

Sketch C shows what happens when the antibiotic is accompanied by a compound which inactivates beta-lactamase. The bacterium once again becomes sensitive to the action of the antibiotic, which ruptures the cell wall.

Augmentin, the new drug, is simply a mixture of Amoxyl, Beecham's biggest-

selling antibiotic, with potassium clavulanate. It received clearance from the Committee for Safety of Medicines in June, after clinical trials involving more than 5,000 people.

A clinical success rate of more than 90 per cent is claimed. The company reports that few side effects occurred, and that those reported were of a "mild and transitory nature." The low toxicity of the clavulanate is believed to be associated with its similarity in structure to the antibiotic itself.

A major step forward in the continuous struggle to find new medicines which will deal with the resistant bacteria now increasingly occurring in hospital and general practice, claimed Mr James Diamond, chairman of Beecham Pharmaceuticals, yesterday.

The group estimates that it has spent about £20m to bring

Augmentin to the market this week — including about £15m on R and D. The idea was patented in 1974 and development began in 1976. At that point the work spread out from the original research project at Brockham Park to involve other Beecham laboratories at Harlow (safety), Worthing (formulation) and Great Burgh (registration).

The development programme has involved manufacture and testing of 1.5m pills of Augmentin. Dr Maurice Soulat, director of new product development estimates.

A team of more than 100 has been engaged on the project. At Worthing, where the group makes its antibiotics, some £5m has been spent on the fermentation and purification of potassium clavulanate and its blending with Amoxyl to make the latest Beecham pill.

DALE
GENERATING SETS.
For prime power,
standby and the
construction industry.
Dale Electric of Great Britain Ltd.
Electricity Buildings, Fife,
York, YO14 9PJ, U.K.
Tel: 0722-514141 Telex: 52163

Graco pump

A 1:1 stainless steel pump from Graco is the latest addition to the range and, the company says, has been designed to minimise wear. The FastFlo includes an externally adjustable "throat seal" and a lubricant cup for piston rod life. The range is designed to handle a variety of light viscosity, corrosive and high purity products with low pressure delivery up to 38 litres per minute. More from Graco (UK) 0902 519224.

Streamer tape set for challenge

MAGNETIC TAPE drive specialists SE Labs (EMI), part of the Thorn group, are to take on Japanese and U.S. companies in Europe with a UK designed and built "streamer" tape drive, for which there is growing demand for back up of disc storage.

In on-line systems the loss of what is recorded on a non-

interchangeable disc such as the Winchester can be a serious matter and the need arises for a relatively low cost tape back-up.

In the "streamer" tape concept the continual stopping and starting of the tape for block recording is done away with and the tape runs continuously either at 50 or 100 inches/sec. Expensive capstan and tachometer systems are not needed and the spool drive motors can be smaller.

SE Labs claim a complete solution for Winchester back-up with four models — Emistreamers 8900, 9900 and 9900 which all use half-inch tapes and the cartridge Streamer 9700 which employs the 3M quarter inch tape cartridge.

The three spool machines range in capacity from 15 to

61 megabytes and offer not just Winchester back up but reliable archival and data interchange ability using standard formats.

All three were developed by SE Labs and the cartridge unit is part of a deal between the company and Data Electronics in the U.S.

At the same time, SE Labs has concluded an agreement with Fujitsu to offer the Japanese company's eight-inch Winchester disc drives in 11, 23, 48 and 94 megabyte capacities.

John Keat, marketing manager, believes that the new products put SE Labs in a good position to take advantage of the "tremendous growth potential of the streamer market." He aims at a U.S.\$45m turnover in this area "inside four years."

GEORGE CHARLISH



THE SE Labs EMISTREAMER 9900 with unformatted storage capacity up to 61 megabytes uses 1 inch tape on open reels up to 10 1/2 inch diameter.

Marconi colour display aid for radio operators

MUCH GREATER ease of viewing for radar operators at sea is provided by two new systems from Marconi International Marine Radar Company.

It is claimed that the new colour display is as bright and clear as a domestic television picture because, instead of fading slowly behind the rotating scan, the whole picture is retained in view at full brilliance and is refreshed at each revolution of the aerial.

The use of colours to enhance the plan-position indicator display—which appears as a 7 in circle on an 11 in diagonal TV tube—greatly eases the problem of identifying individual echoes and features.

On a blue background all the targets are shown in red, yellow or green depending on echo size, while the heading marker is in white. Fixed range rings are green and the bearing scale is in red and white.

A black tail forms behind the echoes enabling the relative course and speed of other vessels to be determined simply and any alteration of course to be seen quickly.

There are two models. The MDC 406 offers seven ranges from 0.5 mile up to 32 miles

and has a 6 kW transmitter. The MDC 407 has eight ranges extending to 64 miles and employs 10 kW.

Provided as standard are automatic plotting of targets and proximity alarm facilities. The compact display units weigh only 27 kgs and they can be table-top or bulkhead mounted. The power consumption is only 180 watts.

Computer

PERKIN-ELMER, the U.S. electronics manufacturer, has introduced a new computer in its range of 32-bit mini machines.

The 3210 will support commercial, technical or scientific applications, and according to the company, provides advanced computing capability at the price of lower powered standard minicomputers.

The machine supports Perkin-Elmer's own operating system Os32 and the newly announced, fully supported Unix Edition VII, which enables users to develop a wide variety of electronic engineering and scientific applications.

The 3210 is offered in an initial configuration at £36,500. More on 0753 34511.

Tube bending service

PIPEWORK ENGINEERING Developments, part of the Tubes Division of British Steel, has launched a comprehensive tube bending service. Tube Benders UK.

The service operates out of the company's Tipton works in West Midlands, and uses a UK-built machine said to be able to handle larger diameter and thicker pipe than its home competitors.

It is capable of bending pipes up to 914 mm (36 inch) outside diameter and up to 75 mm (3 inch) thick.

Manned by an operator and assistant, the machine can produce about 2,000 bends a year, the company claims.

The new machine utilises induction bending technology but conventional hot and cold bending methods will also be available. More on 053 66 2121.



THE British designed induction bending machine which plays a part in BSC's Tubes Division, Pipework Engineering Developments, installed at Tipton in the West Midlands.

PILKINGTON



A collapse in the street. A dash by ambulance. An examination that discovers severe haemorrhage from stomach ulcers; and a long wait until the patient is strong enough to survive an operation. Or, all too often, a tragic death.

This pattern may be changing. It will be if a new device currently under test in the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, proves successful.

The device is made by Barr & Stroud, a Pilkington company. It's fitted to an optical fibre endoscope that allows doctors to look at the inside of the stomach without surgery. And it transmits laser beams down the fibres to coagulate the source of bleeding—immediately.

It saves time. It can save lengthy, and costly, stays in hospital. And already, we're proud to say, it's saving lives.



How's that for enterprise!

FINANCIAL TIMES

Eurobond Quotations and Yields



The Association
of International
Bond Dealers

AT 31st AUGUST 1981

Eurobonds in August

BY OUR EUROMARKETS STAFF

The Association of International Bond Dealers (AIBD) compiles current market quotations and yields for Eurobond issues. These quotations and yields are published monthly by the Financial Times. The association's prices and yields are compiled from quotations obtained from market-makers in the last working day of each month.

There is no single stock exchange for Eurobonds in the usually recognised sense—secondary market trading is done on the telephone between dealers scattered across the world's major financial centres.

Membership of the AIBD (which was established in 1969) comprises over 550 institutions from about 30 countries.

AS BEFITTS the month of August, the international bond market has been rather quiet throughout most of the month. Those bankers who still held out hopes, early in the month, that U.S. interest rates would decline substantially, were disappointed, and not for the first time.

Short dips in U.S. interest rates did help managers launch a new dollar issue or two but the signs of downturn in the U.S. economy and subsequent

decline in U.S. Federal Fund rates at the beginning of August were never reflected in Euro-dollar rates. The six-month Libor rate actually moved up a shade during August, from 18 1/4 per cent to 18 3/4 per cent.

The once mighty D-mark foreign bond sector remains in the doldrums: only two new issues, amounting to a paltry DM 350m, were announced and the second one, for Hydro Quebec fared none too well, in spite of a coupon of 10 1/2 per

cent. There are no signs, as yet, that the veil of gloom which has hung over this sector since the end of the winter may be about to lift. Only a decline in U.S. interest rates and a weakening of the dollar could bring some relief.

The Swiss franc sector accommodated a steady flow of new issues, many of which were for Japanese names. As in recent months, a minority of investors feel there is some point in buying Swiss franc paper. Trading

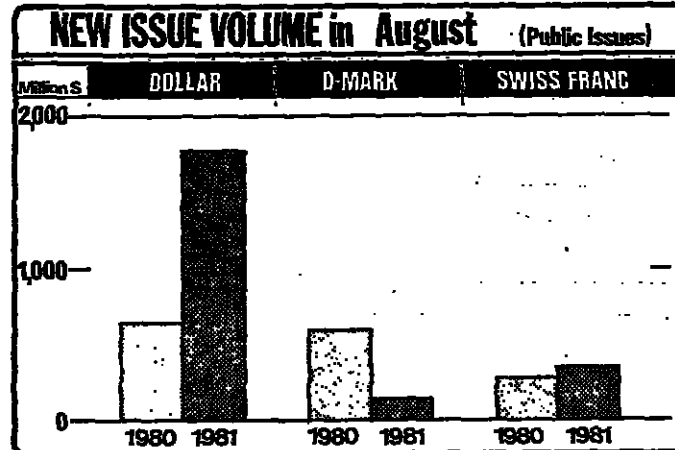
in seasoned Swiss franc bonds however, remains very thin.

In the absence of any great investor urge to buy dollar denominated paper, bankers were resorting, as in the past to new issues or simply trying to attract Japanese borrowers: be it in the form of straight bonds, convertibles, in Swiss francs, dollars or even sterling. Japanese names sold very well. Indeed, so true was this that at times it appeared that the market would have vanished had it not been for the deals being put together for Far East borrowers.

appearance of a new issue. Japanese convertibles have been the stars of last month. A total volume of \$400m worth of such paper was arranged in the dollar sector and, in more than one instance, the good reception they met with enabled managers

bright outlook for the Japanese economy. However, whereas last year many Japanese stores floated convertible bonds, interest in recent weeks has focused on companies in the electronics and other specialised sectors.

By the end of the month, however, there were signs of strain—but the real difficulties of marketing such large volumes of Japanese paper were only destined to become fully apparent early in September.



Bonds with warrants, in the dollar sector were one way of arresting market attention. New issues come with warrants attached which allows investors to lock into higher yields at any time in the year or so that follows the launching of the new bonds.

Some of these issues, notably for Hiram Home in the middle of the month proved highly attractive to investors but others, notably for Continental Illinois were less successful.

Not all new issue managers are convinced that bonds with warrants will continue to be popular. In particular, they are worried about the lack of liquidity which appears to bedevil the trading of some warrants after the initial flurry of activity which follows the

of new issues to lower the initially indicated coupons and increase the size. Such paper was also well received in the Swiss franc sector and there was even one launched in the sterling sector. Many investors are convinced that the Yen will rise sharply once U.S. interest rates decline substantially and continue to be impressed by what they perceive to be the

The World Bank's motive for wishing to add to its Deutsche Mark and Swiss franc liabilities, even to the extent of avoiding normal market constraints—in this way, is its traditional preference for borrowing in currencies with low nominal interest rates.

The exchange of debt servicing responsibilities between the bank and IBM is a strictly private arrangement with no change in the legal status of the debt involved and no implications for its credit rating in the market.

At least one or two other investment banks are known to be thinking along the same lines and borrowers are expected to show great interest in a formula which enables them to reduce their debt in a given currency and increase it in another, in so smooth and discreet a fashion.

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The table of quotations and yields gives the latest rates available on August 31, 1981. This information is from reports from official and other sources, which the Association of International Bond Dealers considers to be reliable, but adequate means of checking its accuracy are not available and the Association does not guarantee that the information it contains is accurate or complete.

All rates quoted are for indication purposes only and are not based on, nor are they intended to be used as a basis for, particular transactions. In quoting the rates the Association does not undertake that its members will take in all the listed Eurobonds and the Association, its members and the Financial Times Limited do not accept any responsibility for errors in the table.

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Item	Midsize Price	Current Value	Yield to Maturity*	Life*	Repayment: 1. Monthly - default 2. In lot or per S-schedule loss 3. Purchase Date
65% Luftbans Int'l 76/98 PP	83.00	7.83	11.52	4.50	1.3-86
7% Lafayette 72/84	88.75	7.69	14.89	1.70	1.675-84
7% Mexico 75/84	85.00	8.20	13.56	1.50	1.675-84
8% Melrose 75/84	95.00	9.74	13.36	1.37	1.2-81-84
8% Melrose 76/83	96.25	9.74	13.58	0.98	1.3-80-83D
8% Manitoba 77/84	87.75	7.22	16.76	2.83	1.7-84
8% Mac's Hydro 72/84	87.00	8.76	12.52	1.50	1.675-84
8% Mega Fin. Comp. 76/90	71.00	7.77	11.85	3.4	1.1-85-90S
7% Mega Fin. Comp. 76/89	76.00	9.21	11.87	5.58	1.4-81-89S
7% M E P 72/88	85.00	8.34	12.63	2.43	1.579-88D
7% Mexico 72/84	81.50	8.90	11.49	2.65	1.3-84
8% Mexico 75/82	97.25	9.25	12.58	0.83	1.7-82
8% Mexico 76/83	92.75	8.63	12.82	1.75	1.6-83
7% Mexico 76/83	88.00	8.20	12.82	1.75	1.6-83
7% Mexico 77/84	82.00	7.32	12.50	3.58	1.4-85
7% Mexico 78/84	87.00	8.20	12.50	3.58	1.4-85
8% Michlan Finance 80/87 PP	87.50	10.00	11.57	6.21	15.11-87
8% Midland Int. Fin. 80/90	88.35	8.52	10.54	9.12	15.10-90
8% Mitsubishi 76/81	85.00	7.30	11.49	2.65	30.4-84
8% Mitsubishi Petro 76/82	90.00	8.29	11.84	2.00	1.9-83
9% MDOO 75/83	95.25	8.45	13.33	1.23	1.6-80-83D
7% Montreal 69/89	85.50	8.19	11.55	3.78	1.470-89D
7% Montreal 72/84	78.00	7.62	11.49	2.65	1.470-89D
8% Montreal 72/83	81.00	8.33	9.49	11.75	1.674-83S
8% Montreal 76/85	94.50	8.99	9.37	4.83	1.777-85S
7% Montreal 77/87	85.25	8.02	9.32	5.87	1.678-87S
7% Mors, Denmark 72/84 (G)	97.00	7.73	8.78	3.17	1.117-84S
7% Mors, Denmark 73/85 (G)	83.25	8.41	10.55	6.53	1.779-85S
8% Mors, Denmark 80/90 (G)	84.00	10.12	11.48	8.55	1.779-85S
8% Nat. Bank 76/83 PP (G)	92.00	8.84	11.59	2.88	1.472-84S
8% Nat. Mexico 76/83 PP (G)	92.00	9.51	13.02	2.25	1.12-83
7% Nat. Mexico 77/82 PP (G)	93.75	9.47	14.13	1.00	1.9-82
8% Nat. Mexico 78/84 PP (G)	91.75	8.76	12.50	3.58	1.4-85
8% Nat. Mexico 77/84 PP (G)	92.00	9.51	12.81	2.50	1.3-84
8% Nat. Hungary 77/85	78.75	8.25	13.47	4.17	1.11-85
7% Nat. Nederl. Fin. Mast. 76/85 PP	73.75	8.36	11.38	5.08	1.10-86
8% Nat'l Wesm. Bk 75/86	92.00	8.70	9.53	10.8	1.12-89-89S
8% Nat'l Wesm. Bk 76/85	92.00	8.70	9.53	10.8	1.12-89-89S
8% Nederl. Gasunie 80/87	94.50	8.59	9.82	5.50	1.3-84-87S
6% New Brunswick 72/87	91.25	7.40	8.83	6.17	1.117-87S
8% Newfoundland 76/85	85.00	7.71	10.55	6.17	1.117-87S
8% Newfoundland 72/87	88.00	8.07	9.39	6.17	1.117-87S
8% Newfoundland 76/85	85.00	7.71	10.55	6.17	1.117-87S
8% New Zealand 69/84	93.10	7.25	12.72	1.38	1.275-84D
7% New Zealand 71/85	92.40	8.12	12.28	2.56	1.577-88D
7% New Zealand 72/84	92.40	7.64	12.28	2.56	1.276-87D
7% New Zealand 76/83	94.00	7.98	12.03	1.50	1.3-83
7% New Zealand 76/85	91.55	8.47	11.13	3.06	1.582-88D
7% New Zealand 77/84	85.70	8.47	10.83	2.67	1.584
7% New Zealand 80/84	85.00	8.68	12.02	2.59	1.584
8% New Zealand 79/85 PP	91.00	7.41	11.73	4.42	1.2-87
7% New Zealand 78/87	81.25	7.69	11.07	5.33	1.1-87
7% New Zealand 78/87	84.50	8.57	11.07	5.33	1.1-87
8% New Zealand 76/84 PP	91.00	8.07	11.70	3.25	1.12-84
7% New Zealand 80/88	87.50	8.00	10.51	6.87	1.57-88
6% Nippon Housing Loan 79/84 PP	87.00	7.71	12.43	2.71	15.8-84
6% Nippon Komm. Bank 76/83	88.20	7.29	11.53	2.58	1.4-84
6% Nippon Sme 76/85	88.00	7.29	11.53	2.58	1.4-84
8% Nippon T & T 75/82 (G)	96.65	8.87	11.42	0.50	1.3-82
8% Nippon T & T 75/82 (G)	96.65	8.45	11.65	0.76	1.6-82
7% Nippon T & T 76/83 (G)	96.00	7.78	11.62	0.76	1.6-83
5% Nippon T & T 76/81 (G)	75.25	6.84	10.73	5.42	1.2-87
5% Norcem 76/85	83.80	6.88	10.70	3.80	1.3-85
7% Norcem 76/85 PP	81.00	7.26	12.88	5.00	1.2-86
6% Nordic LB Int'l 76/84 PP	85.00	7.55	12.42	2.3	1.2-84
6% Nordic Inv. Bank 76/86	83.50	7.48	11.24	3.33	1.1-88
8% Norges Komm. Bank 70/85 (G)	85.75	8.08	10.02	4.08	1.107-85S
7% Norges Komm. Bank 76/83 (G)	84.00	7.88	10.44	3.84	1.107-85S
7% Norges Komm. Bank 77/89 (G)	85.00	7.06	8.64	6.12	15.10-90-98S
6% Norges Komm. Bank 77/89 (G)	81.25	7.36	9.35	8.24	1.12-90-98S
6% Norges Komm. Bank 79/89 (G)	80.00	7.50	8.84	8.24	1.12-90-98S
6% Norges Komm. Bank 79/89 (G)	79.25	7.88	10.82	7.33	1.1-84-89S
7% Norges Komm. Bank 79/89 PP (G)	81.00	11.00	11.08	7.56	15.8-84-89S
7% Norges Komm. Bank 79/81 (G)	80.00	8.34	10.61	8.83	1.7-84-81S
6% Norges Komm. Bank 79/84 (G)	84.25	7.79	11.79	15.8	16.75-84
8% Norlpe 76/84	95.00	8.85	10.91	2.42	1.2-80-84S
8% Norlpe 76/84	88.00	9.09	10.56	6.75	1.6-83-85S
8% Norlpe 77/89	74.50	8.05	10.85	8.17	1.11-84-89S
7% Norsaa Gas 76/88	81.75	8.87	11.02	7.25	1.12-83-88S

6%	Norway 77/82	96.25	6.62	11.90	0.33	1.182
6%	Norway 77/82	96.40	6.47	11.90	0.33	1.182
6%	Norway 77/82	96.60	6.50	11.88	0.32	1.182
4%	Norway 78/83	91.25	5.21	12.20	1.33	1.483
4%	Norway 78/83	89.50	4.89	12.00	1.58	1.483
3%	Norway 78/83	91.25	5.18	11.98	1.54	1.884
7%	Norway 80/85	91.50	8.20	10.80	3.37	1.585
7%	Norw. Mortgage 77/87	89.00	8.15	10.09	3.80	18. 5.93-87D
6%	Norw. Mortgage 77/87	82.00	7.32	11.38	4.43	16.11-82-87D
7%	Norw. Mortgage 78/88	91.25	8.48	11.51	2.89	16.88-88D
7%	Nova Scot. Power 72/85	92.00	7.61	8.70	6.25	1.12-78-87S
9%	Nuclebrna 80/85 (G)	98.00	11.34	12.89	7.04	16. 8.98
9%	Occident. Int. 78/90	91.12	9.12	11.88	1.12	1.185-90S
9%	Occident. Ovens, 88/93	91.50	7.10	14.28	2.08	1.10-73-83S
9%	Qestmr. Donaustr. 87/88 (G)	91.50	8.56	13.35	1.37	1. 2.95-84D
6%	Qestmr. Donaustr. 73/84 (G)	86.50	7.63	9.16	6.50	1. 3.78-88S
8%	Qestmr. Drusick 76/85 (G)	96.50	9.07	10.28	1.94	1. 2.61-85D
7%	Qestmr. W. Wirtsch. 72/87 (G)	96.50	8.80	12.22	2.29	1. 3.78-87D
7%	Qestmr. E. Wirtsch. 76/83 PP (G)	90.25	7.76	12.08	2.58	16.12-83S
5%	Qest. Ind. Verwertung 78/85 PP (G)	82.25	6.89	11.47	3.83	1.183
5%	Qest. Inv. Kautsch. 78/84 PP (G)	98.75	6.98	7.23	3.17	1.78-84S
7%	Qest. 78/87	92.25	8.94	12.55	1.25	1.12-83S
6%	Qest. Kontrollbank 77/84 PP (G)	87.50	7.71	13.06	2.42	1. 2.84
6%	Qest. Kontrollbank 77/84 PP (G)	87.27	7.45	12.05	2.83	1. 7.84
6%	Qest. Kontrollbank 78/83 PP (G)	88.25	7.35	12.05	2.83	1. 7.84
6%	Qest. Kontrollbank 78/83 PP (G)	85.50	7.36	11.57	4.17	1.11-85
5%	Qest. Kontrollbank 78/84 PP (G)	85.00	7.76	12.15	2.92	1. 8.84
6%	Qest. Kontrollbank 78/85 (G)	76.00	8.27	10.89	7.29	16.12-85S
6%	Qest. Kontrollbank 78/87 PP (G)	80.00	8.00	11.57	2.83	1. 7.84
7%	Qest. Kontrollbank 78/88	80.00	9.22	11.77	8.08	10.10-89
8%	Qest. Kontrollbank 78/84 PP (G)	90.50	8.84	11.84	3.25	1.12-84S
7%	Qest. Kontrollbank 78/85 PP (G)	88.25	8.08	11.58	3.25	1.12-85S
8%	Qest. Kontrollbank 80/85 PP (G)	87.50	9.01	11.08	6.42	1. 2.87
8%	Qest. Kontrollbank 80/85 PP (G)	92.76	9.43	11.31	3.54	1.15-85
8%	Qest. Kontrollbank 80/85 (G)	90.65	9.35	10.36	7.17	11.88
7%	Qest. Kontrollbank 80/87 PP (G)	90.00	10.00	11.00	1.00	1.15-87
6%	Qest. Kontrollbank 80/82	81.25	10.15	11.33	10.83	1.19-82
7%	Qest. Kontrollbank 80/88 PP (G)	85.25	9.09	10.87	7.00	1. 9.88
6%	Qest. Länderbank 77/82	82.60	5.64	12.18	1.25	1.12-82S
6%	Qest. 88/89	91.00	8.11	12.75	3.40	1. 2.75-84D
6%	Qestario 72/87	96.75	6.92	10.94	3.35	1. 9.80-87D
7%	Qestario Hydro 71/86	91.75	8.17	10.89	3.15	1.12-77-86D
6%	Qestario Hydro 72/87	87.00	7.47	11.73	3.09	1. 8.80-87D
6%	Qestario Hydro 73/86	86.50	7.51	11.85	3.46	1. 3.81-86D
7%	Qest. 71/87	93.75	8.13	12.13	3.43	1. 1.87-87D
7%	Qest. 71/87	93.50	8.00	12.00	5.34	2. 1.78-87S
6%	Qest. 73/80	84.00	8.04	9.50	8.83	1. 7.76-80S
6%	Qest. 73/87	97.00	8.00	11.00	1.00	1. 7.28-87S
6%	Qest. 80/80	88.00	8.53	10.77	8.50	1. 3.83-90S
6%	Papua 73/88	89.35	7.55	9.89	6.83	1. 7.79-88S
6%	Parker-Hannifin 77/87 PP	98.35	8.08	12.63	6.83	1. 6.83-87D
6%	Parker-Hannifin 78/87 PP	99.35	8.08			

74% SAAB 71/86	93.40	8.30	9.73	4.75	1. 8.77-SSS
74% Saga Petrolkemil 77/67 PP	87.00	8.62	10.59	5.83	1. 7.83-S7S
74% Sandvik 72/87	86.50	8.47	12.67	5.74	1. 7.79-BTD
74% Sandoz 70/86	86.00	8.67	11.63	4.24	1. 7.79-BTD
74% Sanico Steamship 71/84	88.25	7.94	12.36	2.42	1. 2.94
74% Seiyu Stores 80/85	89.25	7.94	12.40	4.50	1. 3.88
74% Shell Int'l 77/85	90.25	7.03	11.03	1.78	1. 7.79-B7S
74% Shell Int'l 77/85	84.75	7.96	10.63	5.32	1. 2.65-SND
74% Siemens Europe 86/81	96.25	7.05	11.46	0.17	due 1.11.70-B1S
74% Singapore 72/85	90.25	7.11	12.85	0.00	1. 7.79-B2S
74% Singapore 72/85	90.25	7.11	12.85	0.00	1. 7.79-B2S
74% Sira Kwina 70/85	95.00	8.89	11.73	2.18	1. 6.78-SND
74% S.N.C.F. 89/83 (G)	92.40	7.03	10.75	2.08	1.10.72-SSS
74% Soc. Dev. Indus. 80/84	87.75	7.36	11.63	1.00	1. 7.79-B7S
74% Soc. Dev. Indus. 77/82 PP (G)	74.50	9.38	12.25	6.92	16.12.83-B2D
74% Soc. Mar. Finca 76/83 PP	85.75	9.40	13.09	1.15	1. 5.79-B2D
74% Sorrento 79/84 PP	81.75	7.85	16.02	2.37	16.1.84
74% South Africa 70/85	95.00	8.83	14.73	2.34	1. 7.79-B4S
74% South-Africa 70/85	95.00	8.83	9.13	4.17	1.11.76-SSS
74% South-Africa 71/86	95.80	8.09	8.97	5.17	1.11.77-SSS
74% South-Africa 72/87	96.00	7.45	8.27	6.17	1.11.76-B7S
74% South-Afr. Oil Fund 78/82 PP (G)	90.75	8.18	14.21	0.82	1. 8.82
74% South-Afr. Oil Fund 78/81 PP (G)	96.00	7.34	14.83	0.21	due 1.11.81
74% South-Afr. Oil Fund 78/81 PP (G)	96.00	7.40	17.32	0.21	due 16.11.81
74% South-Afr. Oil Fund 78/82 PP (G)	94.75	8.18	14.21	0.82	1. 8.82
74% South-Afr. Oil Fund 78/82 PP (G)	94.00	8.24	14.32	1.04	16. 8.82
74% South-Afr. Oil Fund 79/83 PP (G)	88.50	9.04	14.82	2.17	1.11.83
74% South-Afr. Oil Fund 79/84 PP (G)	88.00	8.73	14.81	1.71	1. 3.84
74% South-Afr. Oil Fund 79/84 PP (G)	88.00	8.73	9.51	6.75	1. 6.75-SSS
74% South-Afr. Railway 78/82 PP (G)	95.00	8.16	16.08	0.57	1. 5.82
74% South-Afr. Railway 78/83 PP (G)	90.00	8.89	14.58	1.93	1. 7.83
74% South-Afr. Railway 78/83 PP (G)	89.50	8.84	14.61	1.93	1. 7.83
74% South-Afr. Railway 78/83 PP (G)	89.50	8.84	13.71	2.25	1.12.83
74% South Scot. B. 73/85 (G)	91.00	7.89	8.88	6.42	1. 2.78-SSS
74% Spain 77/84	84.85	7.95	13.34	2.92	1. 8.84
74% Spain 78/88	74.30	8.08	11.76	6.67	1. 2.88-SSS
74% Spainbank 77/80	80.75	8.05	10.28	7.50	1. 3.88-SSS
74% Standard Imp & Exp 78/82 PP (G)	95.00	8.20	14.54	0.92	1. 8.82
74% Stand. Chert. Bank 78/88	78.75	8.25	11.37	6.33	1. 1.88
74% Statoil 78/88	75.10	8.29	10.34	7.00	1. 9.84-SSS
74% Statoil 78/89 (G)	75.10	8.29	10.34	7.00	1. 9.84-SSS
74% Statestet 78/85	90.25	7.76	12.98	1.92	1. 3.82-SSD
74% Stockholm County 75/87	83.50	8.36	11.44	2.99	1. 4.78-B7D
74% Sumitomo Metal 75/82	87.80	8.72	11.74	0.86	1. 7.82
74% Sun Oil Int. Fin. 73/86	90.00	8.18	14.21	0.82	1. 8.78-SSS
74% Sun Oil Int. Fin. 73/86	90.00	8.18	10.57	6.42	1. 7.78-SSS

WestLB Euro-Deutschmarkbond Quotations (Continued)

Issue	Amount	Current Yield	Yield to Maturity	Price	Par
10% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	10.88	11.79	8.14	20.00
6% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
7% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
8% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
9% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
10% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
11% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
12% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
13% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
14% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
15% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
16% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
17% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
18% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
19% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
20% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
21% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
22% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
23% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
24% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
25% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
26% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
27% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
28% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
29% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
30% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
31% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
32% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
33% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
34% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
35% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
36% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
37% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
38% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
39% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
40% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
41% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
42% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
43% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
44% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
45% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
46% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
47% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
48% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
49% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
50% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
51% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
52% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
53% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
54% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
55% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
56% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
57% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
58% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
59% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
60% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
61% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
62% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
63% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
64% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
65% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
66% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
67% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
68% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
69% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
70% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
71% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
72% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
73% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
74% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
75% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
76% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
77% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
78% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
79% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
80% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
81% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
82% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
83% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
84% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
85% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
86% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
87% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
88% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
89% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
90% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
91% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
92% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
93% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
94% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
95% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
96% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
97% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
98% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
99% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875
100% Staatsb. Hdb. 81/87	100.00	7.80	8.42	5.80	1.75-875

INVESTMENT FUNDS

The following funds include Eurobond issues within their portfolios
Quotations & yields as at 31 August, 1981

SOCIETE GENERALE DE BANQUE BANQUE GENERALE DU LUXEMBOURG

Funds	31/8/81	Price	First Issue Price	Yield %	Div. Date	1/9/80 High	31/8/81 Low	1/9/78 High	31/8/81 Low
Rentinvest	LuxFr 866	LuxFr 1000	8.91	20/11/80	LuxFr 894	LuxFr 727	LuxFr 918	LuxFr 727	
Capital Rentinvest	LuxFr 1740	LuxFr 1000	(71)	LuxFr 1793	LuxFr 1772	LuxFr 1793	LuxFr 1772	LuxFr 1793	



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of International
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Banque de l'Union Européenne
Banque Nationale de Paris
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Credit Lyonnais
Banque NED-Interban

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Deutsche Bank AG
Dresdner Bank AG
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Banque Paribas Luxembourg S.A.
Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourg
Swiss Bank Corporation (Luxembourg)

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Bank Mees & Mees
Barclays Bank N.V.
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Bank van der Hoop, Offert N.V.
Bank van Lanschot
Nederlandsche Middenstandsbank N.V.

Nederlandsche Credietbank N.V.
Ottaviano Effectenbank
Pierson, Helderling & Pierson
Slavenburg, Oyens & Van Eeghen N.V.

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Christiania Bank og Kreditkasse
Den norske Creditbank
Den Danske Bank af 1871 Aktieselskab
R. Henriques Jr. Bank-Aktieselskab
Rensselaers-Osaka-Paniki
Kjøbenhavn Handelsbank
Privatbanken Aktieselskab
Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken
Sparbankens SDB
Spansk Bank af Finland (Nordiska)
Föreningsbanken (AB)
Union Bank of Norway

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Credit Suisse/Swiss Credit Bank
Swiss Bank Corporation
Union Bank of Switzerland

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Amro Int. Ltd.
Rache Halsey Stuart Shields
Bank of America International Ltd.
Bankers Trust International Ltd.
Blyth Eastman Paine Webber Ltd.
Chase Manhattan Ltd.
Chemical Bank International Ltd.
C.I.B.C. Ltd.
Citicorp International Bank Ltd.
Continental Illinois Ltd.
Credit Commercial de France (Securities)
Ltd.
Credit Suisse First Boston Ltd.
Cresvale International
Dalva Europe Ltd.
Dean Witter Reynolds Overseas Ltd.
Deutsche Bank AG
Dillon, Read Overseas Corporation
Domestic Securities Ltd.
European Banking Company Ltd.
First Chicago Ltd.
Robert Fleming & Co.
Goldman Sachs International Corp.

Hambros Bank Ltd.
ICI Italiana Ltd.
Italian International Bank Ltd.
Kidder Peabody Securities Ltd.
Kuhn, Loeb Lehman Brothers
International

REGION 10 - UNITED STATES

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Lloyds Bank International Ltd.
Mandates Securities Hanover Ltd.
McClure, Young & Wale International Ltd.
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith
(Brokers & Dealers) Ltd.
Midland Doherty Ltd.
Morgan Guaranty Ltd.
Morgan Stanley International
New Japan Securities Corporation Ltd.
The Nikko Securities Co. (Europe) Ltd.
Nomura International Ltd.
Nordic Bank Ltd.
Ord Minnett
Orion Royal Bank Ltd.
Pine, Denny & Co.
PFB Investments
Ross & Partners
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Vickers, de Costa & Co. Ltd.
S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.
Weiss Durracher Mordant and Co.
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White Weld Securities
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Arab Banking Corporation
The Arab Co. for Trading Securities
S.A.K.
National Bank of Abu Dhabi

U.S. \$50,000,000

Medium Term Loan



Agip Recherches Congo (Brazzaville) S.A.

Guaranteed by

Agip (Africa) Limited

and

The Government of the Popular Republic of the Congo

Arranged by

Bank of Montreal

Funds Provided by

Bank of Montreal Bank of Montreal Asia Limited
Banque Européenne de Crédit (BEC) Credito Italiano - London
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BANK OF MONTREAL

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FINANCIAL TIMES

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Thursday September 17 1981

Two parties,
one policy

THE OVERWHELMING endorsement of the Liberal-Social Democratic alliance in Llandudno yesterday confirms the possibility of a powerful new force in the centre of British politics. Its central aim is clear: to reform the electoral system to give fair representation to the supporters of minority parties. This would be the time being at any rate and the alternating dominance of parties of the left or right.

General drift

At the moment the opinion polls suggest that this essentially ground-clearing objective appeals strongly to voters, who may see the opportunity to vote against both the traditionally dominant parties as argument enough. If the alliance can dominate the opinion polls with only the vaguest of identifiable policies, they may feel cautious about accepting too eagerly the challenge from their rivals to put up a specific programme which can be fought in detail. On present form, the alliance will continue to trade heavily on its central appeal: a break with the past.

Nevertheless, a party offering itself as a potential government must have a programme and so the Social Democrats, the newcomers, have much urgent work to do during and after their own first party conference. The general drift of its thinking may be judged, though cautiously, from the discussion papers published last week as a starting point.

These are the work of individual party thinkers, and not of the leadership or the nascent party apparatus, and they sometimes disagree radically on points of detail, but they have jointly an identifiable drift. In terms of economic management, it is part of the European progressive right, attached to the social market economy. In its social and foreign policy objectives, it is a left-wing, though its socialist background is much clearer, with a strong bias in favour of income redistribution and foreign aid.

Democratisation is a further quite general objective, ranging from a Carter-like approach on human rights abroad, through proposals for trade union reform which might be acceptable to Mrs Thatcher, to

such details as reforms of school governing boards and local health authorities.

Pump priming

This is an appealing balance of priorities, with a welcome emphasis on the market economy. What is not quite so appealing, as might be expected at this stage, is the balance between general aspirations and workable proposals. Thus there is a call for the reform of local taxation which anyone might support; the trouble here has been that every would-be reforming minister seems to end up convinced that no practical proposals for reform are any better than what we have. The discussion of wage determination is almost schizophrenic, as might be expected in a party some of whose leaders helped to preside over the disasters of 1978-79, but whose new allies have preached statutory policy in a most illiberal way.

The proposals on macroeconomic strategy are closely similar (with some acknowledgement) to the CBI-pump priming through fiscal stimulus and currency depreciation, followed by exchange rate rather than money supply targets.

Radical cures

It is the details rather than the generalities which are revealing, though. Some are less than candid—for example, an admission that large tax reliefs for the poor to obviate the poverty trap "would mean foregoing the objective of tax reductions." This widely understates the probable cost. Others, such as the idea—borrowed again—from a North Sea investment fund—appear half-baked. There are encouraging signs, however, of a willingness to face the need for radical cures to long-running problems, such as the proposals not only for union reform but for housing finance, which would erode mortgage tax relief.

It is to be hoped that the party can conserve this radicalism in the work to come. A brand new party which proposes to bring down the two-party system at a blow need not worry too much about what has been thought "politically impossible."

Chemicals and
the arms race

NEARLY five years have passed since the U.S. first began alleging that chemical weapons were being used against anti-Communist guerrillas in South East Asia. Initially, world reaction was tempered by memories of chemicals such as the notorious Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. But the latest charges against the Soviet Union are liable to have a far deeper effect on East-West relations.

The evidence released by Washington this week is disturbing. For it suggests that it is not mere chemicals which are being used in the "yellow rain" described by Laotian tribesmen. Instead it appears that toxins are involved. This suggests that the Soviet Union has been violating the convention it signed in 1972 banning the production and use of biological weapons and toxins.

The U.S. admits that its evidence is "preliminary" but insists that there are "strong and compelling" indications that the lethal agents in the rain are mycotoxins. These toxins do not appear naturally in South East Asia but occur as mould on wheat in the Soviet Union. There is reportedly no facility in South East Asia where they could be developed. The clear suggestion is that the Soviet Union has transferred them to its allies.

Doubts

In March last year the Soviet Union found itself accused of breaking the convention banning biological weapons following more than 100 deaths from pulmonary anthrax in Sverdlovsk in Central Russia in April 1979; the suggestion then was that the anthrax had escaped from a germ weapon factory.

Today Western governments admit that some doubts remain about that case, but they never given a chance of investigating it fully. The same problems applied when a United Nations body tried to investigate earlier accusations concerning South East Asia. One clear lesson is that the biological weapons convention needs a policing system. The U.S. has also been

right to insist on adequate means of ensuring compliance with the treaty banning chemical weapons, as distinct from biological ones. It has been discussing this treaty with the Soviet Union, both within the UN and, until July last year, bilaterally.

The clear aim of Mr Alexander Haig, the U.S. Secretary of State, when he raised the issue of the use of the toxins while visiting West Berlin last week-end was a political one. He wished to contrast the silence which greeted earlier charges that the Soviet Union and its allies have used chemical and other weapons with the storm of public Western protest at the U.S. decision to develop the neutron bomb.

It was a valid point. It is crucial that both sorts of weapon should be included in the disarmament talks which the international community has long sought.

Next week Mr Haig is due to meet Mr Alexei Gromyko, his Soviet counterpart in New York. Their main theme will be nuclear arms control talks, but it would be a useful test if they could also seek to finalise the chemical warfare convention which has so far proved elusive.

Allocated

Both sides have massive stocks of chemical weapons. The U.S. has just allocated \$19m towards building and equipping a plant in Arkansas capable of building binary nerve gas shells—made up of two gases which are harmless until mixed. The Soviets have long disturbed the West with their troops specialised in chemical warfare and their military vehicles specially equipped to withstand nerve gases or germ warfare.

Two years ago the U.S. and USSR jointly signed a declaration that the prohibition of chemical weapons is "one of the most urgent and vital problems in the area of disarmament." The latest charges by Washington underline this. But they also serve to bring home a point that the West has long made: that it is no good having a treaty if its observance cannot be verified. Mr Haig's charges of the use of toxins in Laos have lifted the lid on a disturbing new facet of the arms race between the super powers.

THE MECHANICAL office typewriter has barely changed since the 1890s; it will soon be extinct. Now that electronic typewriters have arrived on the scene, a Darwinian process of industrial selection will ensure that traditional machines—whether manual or electrical—will go out of production: probably in the next year or two.

Even if the familiar electro-mechanical design could survive in the office, they would die in the factory. Electronic typewriters are better typewriters, but the main reason they will win the evolutionary battle is that they can be produced much more cheaply. In its sophisticated electro-mechanical form, the typewriter has about 2,500 components. Even in the most modern plant, that requires a 19th century reliance on skilled labour. Productivity improvements have been hard to achieve and in advanced economies they have been nullified by spiralling increases in wage rates.

Manufacturers have long tried to escape the consequences of rising industrial wages at home by switching to cheaper offshore production facilities. An early example was Litton Industries' attempt to make the UK its low-cost production base in the early 1970s. Litton closed its U.S. factory in 1972, transferring production to the Imperial works at Leicester and Hull. Both plants closed early in 1975.

SCM (Smith-Corona) opened a factory in Singapore in 1974. At that time its West Bromwich works were reported to be building 550,000 machines annually. West Bromwich was closed this year, and SCM's production from Singapore is about 1m machines (mostly electric portables).

The geographical search for cheap labour is a temporary solution. After all, Singapore is no longer a low-wage economy. Nor is Japan, where millions of typewriters are produced—almost entirely for export.

What excites the industry about the electronic machines is their vastly reduced labour content. The 2,500 parts are reduced to six or seven modular components—platen, printer, keyboard, two or three small stepper-motors, and a microprocessor. Even counting the parts of these modules, a machine typically has no more than 200 parts. Assembly time is reduced to less than a third of that needed for traditional models. According to Mr John Sarna—head of the UK arm of Olympia, a subsidiary of AEG—the labour requirements of electronic typewriters may thus drop as much as 70 per cent below those of electro-mechanicals.

By going electronic, typewriter companies can hope to outdo the 50 per cent labour shakeouts and profit revivals enjoyed by the builders of telephone equipment during the change from mechanical to electronic exchanges over the past five years or so.

Olivetti seems to have been the first to exploit this chance. From a loss of £880m in 1978 (about £55m at the time), it has turned round spectacularly to profits of £1,040m in 1980 and a forecast £1,500m this year (about £126m). It is true that during this time Olivetti has undergone a full-scale remodelling under the revitalising control of Sig. Carlo de Benedetti. But Sig de Benedetti himself attributes much of his success to the new products which were in the pipeline when he took control of Olivetti. Those products included Olivetti's first electronic typewriter, launched in 1978. (Olivetti disputes with Qyx the distinction of being first on the market.)

In the two full years since that launch Olivetti has more than doubled labour productivity in money terms, from £24.4m a year per man to £51.7m. Inflation of 20 per cent per year may be responsible for about two-fifths of the apparent improvement, leaving a real productivity gain of 60 per cent. Since typewriters are something less than half of Olivetti's business and the rest is business computers, cash registers, calculators, copiers—was already at least quasi-electronic, Olivetti's productivity gains from the "electronicisation" of typewriters could even exceed the 70 per cent suggested by Mr Sarna.

Since the wage-bill is half the cost of an electromechanical machine, there is a compelling argument that others can follow Olivetti back into the black; savings could be as much as 35 per cent total costs.

Olympia—about a year behind Olivetti in developing and fully marketing its range of electronics—is thought to have lost about £150m in 1980. It is still at a critical, but hopeful, stage in its transformation.

Facit—a subsidiary of the Swedish Electrolux group—was profitable in 1980. Nevertheless, Electrolux's annual report sums up the general experience when it records that a "drop in the demand in export markets for typewriters... in

conjunction with a changeover from mechanical machines to new models of electronic typewriter called for a reduced labour content has made it necessary to reduce the number of employees..."

The same reasoning can fairly be imputed to Silver Seiko, the Japanese manufacturer of Silver Reed typewriters. (Brother, the other major Japanese maker, appears to be following a similar strategy.) Silver Seiko, held off from making an office typewriter until about two years ago, when it tried to leapfrog straight into the new era of low-cost production with machines in which the movement of the golfball was controlled by a chip—eliminating most of the moving parts found in standard electrics. But there was no memory, no facilities for the user except those expected of a standard electro-mechanical typewriter.

These models remain in Silver Reed's range, but the success of fully electronic machines which others were introducing at the same time has forced Silver Reed to follow suit, incorporating some intelligence in a completely different design (using a print-wheel rather than a golfball).

The cost of breaking into the new electronic typewriter game is high, but not a deterrent. Researching a family of products—of which the first was introduced in the U.S. last year—cost SCM some \$50m according to Mr David Naylor, the executive responsible for its UK launch this autumn. This is not peanuts, but IBM's research expenditure in 1980 was sufficient to have funded 30 such projects.

Established players have somehow to run down their commitment to the old electro-mechanical lines—a transition which can be costly and provoke accusations of dumping as stocks are dispersed. Those who come fresh to typewriters have the problem of creating a niche for their product in the market. Researching its Qyx range was scarcely more than petty cash to Exxon, but the process of building up a direct sales network and funding the initial production has been expensive. Despite rapid sales growth—the combined revenue from Qyx and Exxon's other information products Qyx and Videc rose 48 per cent in 1980 to around \$100m—Exxon Office Systems has yet to reach breakeven. Estimates of the cumulative loss since 1978 range as high as \$500m.

The field is now open to anyone who has the necessary expertise in applied micro-electronics—provided they have the marketing and financial muscle. Xerox is one entrant whose credentials—identification with office products, well developed distribution system, and a significant share of the screen-based word processor market—cannot be faulted. Canon, best known as Japan's largest camera manufacturer but also well entrenched as a maker of office copiers, has already reached a much more thorough problem of Japanese language word processors and is expected to announce an electronic typewriter shortly.

Inevitably, as the number of producers multiplies the higher margins now beginning to be found in the industry will be whittled away by competition. Already the retail prices of the lower-end machines have started to tumble: Olivetti's most basic ET-121 model has a UK list price of £940, but it can be bought from dealers in London for just less than £800. Similar discounts are obtainable on other makes. That sort of pricing makes electro-mechanicals look expensive as well as obsolescent, but it does

be inspected.) A number of the six leading world typewriter producers—IBM, Triumph-Adler, Olivetti, Olympia, Hermes and Facit—have found it difficult to turn a profit in recent years. But the difficulties which the leaders have confronted are to some extent masked by the fact that they are mostly divisions or subsidiaries of large diversified businesses. Triumph-Adler is part of Volkswagen. Olympia of the much distressed AEG-Telefunken combine. Facit of the Swedish Electrolux group.

The bankruptcy early this year of the world's oldest typewriter company, Remington Rand, demonstrated that survival could not be taken for granted.

This tactic is anything but foolproof. Typewriter companies which are for sale, may not always be able to deliver the goods. Volkswagen's disastrous venture into Triumph-Adler—described in Tuesday's Financial Times—was made still worse by the losses it sustained in Pertec, the Los Angeles based computer company it bought in 1979 for \$117m.

The overall strategy is in any case fragile. Typewriter companies are looking to climb up a ladder of increasingly sophisticated products, searching for progressively higher margins. But only a few rungs of the ground they will meet a hostile throng of specialist micro-computer and word-processor companies. It should be an interesting meeting.

WORLD TYPEWRITER INDUSTRY

A change of key

By Jeremy Stone

The world's typewriter industry is in the middle of an upheaval that symbolises the effects that rapid technological change is having in the industrialised world. Within a year or two the traditional electro-mechanical typewriter will almost certainly cease production as new electronic machines take over. The revolution has hit the industry hard, but some companies have fought back successfully. Others are still struggling. All are aware that still further changes may be just round the corner.



not seem consistent with fast profits. Typewriter companies are looking beyond the current exciting, but probably short-lived boost to profits. In the longer term, their investment in electronic typewriters will have to justify itself as a means of securing a stake in the integrated electronic office. The present generation of machines is designed to hasten its arrival. Already there are several machines with which a typist can receive text over the public telephone network, direct from the keyboard. Others incorporate enough arithmetic to calculate (and automatically insert) the sub-totals of an invoice or tax schedule. Some can be simply plugged in to serve as keyboard and high-quality printer for a screen-based word processor.

Visions of a profitable future as purveyors of information handling systems assume that typewriter companies can become leaders in applied electronics. That is why the European groups have been energetically buying up companies which specialise in advanced electronics and information processing—particularly in the U.S. Volkswagen was quick to add a Los Angeles computer company—Pertec—to its shopping list when it bought Triumph-Adler in 1979. Olivetti has made a point of taking equity in "high technology partners"—such as its 25 per cent of the U.S. company Syntrex.

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HOW THE NEW BREED IS DIFFERENT

THE BASIC electronic typewriter does very little more than the traditional machines. They look alike, and they still have one piece of technology in common—they use an embossed printing element to mark the paper by whacking the back of an ink ribbon.

Most office electro-mechanicals—and all electrics—put all the letters on a single printing element (rather than having a separate type-bar for each letter).

Except for IBM, however, practically all makers of electronics have abandoned the golfball in favour of a print-wheel (also known as a "daisy-wheel" because of its shape). The reason is that daisies can go twice as fast as golfballs when the type-

writer is printing from memory—a speed of 50 characters per second is attainable by daisy-wheel machines.

Although the switch from golfballs to daisies is the most visible sign of change, the main difference between electronics and electro-mechanicals is that the old machines are stuffed with machinery while the new are virtually empty boxes, containing little more than a microprocessor and a few small electric motors.

Electronic typewriters can be made to do a great deal more than type. The electronics and programming which go to make a word processor can as easily be housed in something that looks like

a typewriter as in something that looks like a computer terminal. That makes it possible to build in as much (or as little) "intelligence" as may be wanted.

Such intelligence may extend no further than the simple ability to correct errors automatically—if they happened in the last line or so—and remember tabulations. But it can include full word processing capabilities. At the top end, so-called writers have thousands of words of memory and the capacity to shuffle text around within that memory—transposing paragraphs, for example. (These "smart" models usually have a single-line display, on which the contents of the memory can

be inspected.) A number of the six leading world typewriter producers—IBM, Triumph-Adler, Olivetti, Olympia, Hermes and Facit—have found it difficult to turn a profit in recent years. But the difficulties which the leaders have confronted are to some extent masked by the fact that they are mostly divisions or subsidiaries of large diversified businesses. Triumph-Adler is part of Volkswagen. Olympia of the much distressed AEG-Telefunken combine. Facit of the Swedish Electrolux group.

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MEN AND MATTERS

Hung, drawn
and quartered

Heaven knows what treasures still lie unrecognized in the dusty corridors and bar parlours of Britain's hotels.

Sir Charles Forte, I assume, was not altogether surprised to find that when he acquired the opulent George V in Paris, he also got a Renoir that decorated one of its walls. But no-one at Trusthouse Forte had any idea when it paid £1.2m earlier this year for the White Hart at Lincoln, that the contents that came with it would include £250,000 worth of art and antiques.

The group has since been taking stock of the pictures and furnishings on its provincial outposts and yesterday opened an exhibition at the Cavendish of a selection of the charming if comparatively modest Victorian and Edwardian paintings which it found in places like the Golden Pheasant at Thirsk and the Black Swan in Helmsley.

The White Hart itself has contributed a Landseer pastel and there are works by Kneller, Sartorius and Bainsfather of "Old Bill" fame.

Trusthouse's annual budget now provides some £250,000 for conserving its artistic assets—and for acquiring more. The Cavendish has for some time pursued an enlightened patronage of contemporary painters, trimming its bars and restaurants with the works of Heron, Davis and Caulfield.

Staffan's staff

Staffan Gadd, the new Swedish broom at Samuel Montagu, is now polishing off the appointment of his new merchant banking team. The latest recruit to Old Street is David Hinde, a 43-year-old one-time solicitor who has been lured away from the Hong Kong and Shanghai's Wardley merchant bank in order to beef up Montagu's international corporate finance work.

Hinde joins the corporate finance team which has been headed by Ian Mackintosh since the abrupt departure of John Gillum last month.

Derek Hughes, Gadd's former deputy at Scandinavian Bank, now heads the important UK and international banking and finance division, while David Potter has been installed from Credit Suisse First Boston to head the international capital markets division.

Montagu's important dealing operations have been left under the control of Christopher Sheridan, while David Stevens, another old Montagu hand, runs the investment side. It is not all that clear, however, where Paul Jeanty and Ken Bennett fit into the new streamlined structure, since neither of the long-standing managing directors has any divisional responsibilities.

Gadd promises more appointments. But one which is particularly keenly awaited is the naming of a successor to Malcolm Wilcox, who will step down as chairman shortly. Sources inside the Midland, Montagu's parent, say that Gadd will get that job.

Fowl jobs

What we know as "fowl pest," the French know as "le malade de Newcastle." I learned the other day from a Gallic pronouncement on the current state of the turkey war. Now, the only malade de Newcastle in my experience being related to overindulgence in a noteworthy brand of brown ale, I was a little concerned about this slur on the people of Tyne-side. Were the Geordies indeed notorious poisoners of turkeys and allied fowl?

"A good question," replied the genial voice of M. Danel, agricultural attaché at the French embassy in London. Anxious to vindicate Tyne-side of any malfeasance, he suggested that the disease was perhaps named after the man who first isolated it.

A jolly pleasing explanation for all concerned, I thought. But a further call to the Ministry of Agriculture hung the rap back on Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The first British outbreak of the disease occurred there in 1926, in the same year as the virus had been originally recorded in the Dutch East Indies. In India, by the way, the pest is known as "Ranikhet Disease" after the place where it is struck that country in 1927.

Outward bound

Pessimists watching sterling's autumnal slide have been struck by its uncanny similarity in some respects to the fall to \$1.63 in September 1976, which caused then Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey to postpone a planned trip to the Far East.

Five years ago, Healey, en route to the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' meeting in Hong Kong and thence to the annual International Monetary Fund gathering in Manila, was summoned back from Heathrow Airport to help calm the markets.

Reassurance from the Treasury, however, history will not repeat itself. Sir Geoffrey Howe is packing his bags and will be on the weekend flight to Nassau for the Commonwealth finance session next week before going to the IMF meeting in Washington.

Lots more

Christopher Weston, chairman of Phillips, the fine art auctioneers, is just back from the firm's New York salerooms with a bid for a place in the Guinness Book of Records. He has arranged for a one-day sale in November of no fewer than 9m items.

It seems that a keen young recruit to Phillips' New York print department, finding business a bit slow recently, went out to see if he could hustle



"You realise that they are the same people that we had a Lib-Lab pact with!"

up a lot or two—and found a warehouse packed with reproduction prints.

They were the accumulated stock of a business formed after World War I by Hungarian immigrant Sidney Z. Lucas who prospered as New York's "King of French etchings." Lucas died in 1966 and his executors, having stored the prints since, are now finding the warehouse rent getting a bit steep.

Weston says the prints are in pristine condition. Published between 1936 and 1966, they include more than 300,000 Pre-vost and Redouté flower etchings in colour, 400,000 Currier and Ives reproductions, and 14,000 Utrillos. There are sporting prints, military prints, animals, birds and "nudes by the tens of thousands."

The vast collection is being split into 400 lots. Phillips' computer tells them that if they sold the prints singly it would take some 38 years.

Observer

NOT THE
9 O'CLOCK NEWS.

The good news is, we fly direct from Manchester to Brussels at 8.55 precisely. Each and every weekday morning. So instead of kicking your heels in the airport, you could be enjoying a continental breakfast in the sky with us.

And looking forward to working up a healthy appetite with your Belgian associates before lunch.

Next time you've got business in Brussels, make it your business to fly Sabena. Belgian world air line.

Direct flights from Man/Brussels. Weekdays 8.55am.



'Real' reasons for high interest rates

HERE ARE two sets of reasons for the rise in British interest rates. The first is alarm about the fall in sterling and the rise in bank lending. The second is the world-wide change in the demand for capital relative to its supply, which has been pushing up real interest rates and has been the fundamental force behind the super-inflationary monetary manifestations.

Recent British events are not clear. Whether judged by money supply, bank lending, or the exchange rate, a strong inflationary momentum was building up.

For a while, sterling was simply feeling the backlash from the dollar's strength. But recent weeks it has also been adding dangerously against other currencies. The rate against the D-Mark, which had slipped gradually from DM 4.9 in January to DM 4.7 in July, plunged right down to DM 4.2 on Monday morning. Sterling weakness was thus becoming an independent factor. Whatever the balance of the arguments between export profitability and counter-inflationary policy against the D-Mark, a further landslide would have killed all hopes of single-digit inflation.

The sterling slide confirmed the suspicion, frequently voiced in this column, that the rapid increase in the money supply could not be explained away by the Civil Service strike or by other distortions.

But why, after all the talk of a new, more sophisticated system, with the Bank of England operating gradually in the money markets, were interest rates jerked suddenly upwards in old-style Bank Rate fashion? This mode of operation ditched the hope of taking some of the politics out of interest rate decisions and gave a new lease to the myth that ministers or central bank

DEAR MONEY ROUND THE WORLD

	Interest Rate (3 months Euro rate, rounded)	Inflation Rate (Consumer prices rise in year to July)	Approx. Real Interest Rate
France	21-22	13.4	8
U.S.	17-17½	10.7	7
UK	14-15	10.9	4
Germany	11-12	5.8	6
Japan	7-7½	4.3	3

* Year to August

governors can pick an interest rate and enforce it. The table shows that overwhelmingly the most important influence over national interest rates is the inflation rate; and the second most important influence is the world pattern. A relatively tight budget, like the British one of 1981, allows interest rates to be a couple of points lower relative to inflation than in other countries; but it cannot buck the trend. If any government is ideologically disposed towards cheap money, it is President Mitterrand's; yet French interest rates are at the top of the league both absolutely and allowing for inflation.

A more important criticism is that by following an exchange rate policy, without announcing it or even admitting it to itself, the Government is getting the worst of all worlds. Given the present mess in both our knowledge of monetary movements and of the targets appropriate to the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the exchange rate can act as a rough-and-ready substitute. But keeping the markets in a fog of uncertainty about the criteria behind interest rate movements is merely destabilising and kills the potential benefit to counter-inflationary expectations.

The last thing I am urging is official intervention to support a particular exchange rate or membership of the European Monetary System (EMS)—which is neither European nor monetary nor a system and may not survive the present French President. All we need is a broad official indication, e.g. that a trade weighted average "much below 90-95" would be inappropriate and that this view would "influence" interest rate policy. It would be a target and not a commitment and could be changed with circumstances, subject to the overriding need to keep money GDP (that is total spending in the UK) from rising at an annual rate of not more than about 10 to 12 per cent over an average of several quarters.

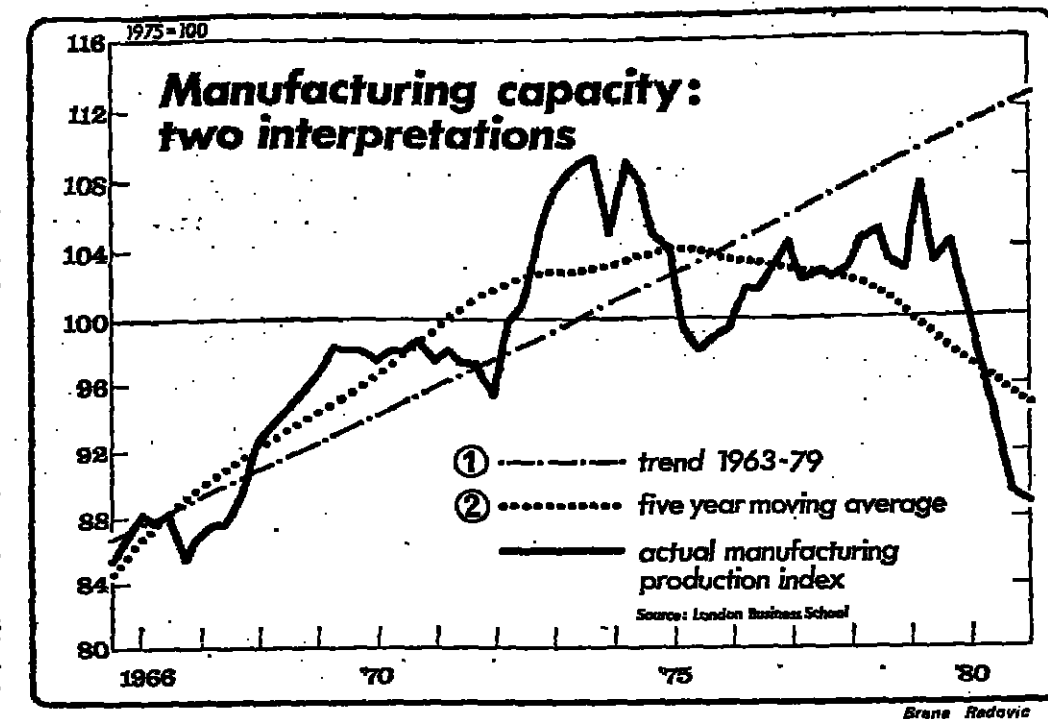
All this concerns the monetary superstructure. Far more important is the evidence that the real rate of interest—after subtracting the inflation premium—is rising throughout the world. Estimates of it are in-adequately rough, as past inflation rates are an imperfect guide to the future and alternative interest rates can be quoted. American interest rates, especially at the short end, are

unsustainably high and will come down once inflationary expectations have been pricked or a serious recession develops.

Peculiarities of U.S. financial psychology do not explain the upward shift in the whole international spectrum of real interest rates from a range of about minus 1 per cent to 4 per cent in 1980, to about 4-7 per cent today, on a modest estimate.

A rise in the real price of any service is a sign that it is becoming scarcer. There is thus prima facie evidence of a world shortage of capital. Such a shortage makes the Reagan Administration's high budget deficit risks doubly foolish. But something much more basic is at work than the financial mistakes of this or that government.

We are in a new world where capital is scarce and energy is scarce. Despite intervals of sagging prices in recession, while labour is relatively plentiful. By "scarce" and "plentiful" I mean that the real price required to balance supply and demand is rising in the first two cases and falling in the last one. There is the utter contrast with the pre-1973 world when energy was very cheap, capital reasonably so and labour shortages were the ultimate constraint on economic expansion.



and full capacity working. Indeed economists of the post-war establishment cannot understand how there can be a world capital shortage when industrialists report so much surplus capacity. The belief in a world capital shortage is thus crucially dependent on whether there really is a surplus of capacity, or whether the latter is a myth based on a confusion of physical equipment with assets which really could be put into profitable operation once the recession is over.

The last London Business School Forecast Release (published by Gower Press) has taken this bull by the horns and slain it, at least in the case of the UK. The British recession, it points out, is concentrated in

the relatively small manufacturing sector (heavily represented in the CBI) where output has fallen by 20 per cent from the 1979 peak. By contrast, non-manufacturing output has fallen by only 21 per cent. The LBS argues that both technical and price changes have made much of present capacity economically obsolete. Just as railways made the canals obsolete, motorways have had a similar effect on rail freight. Microchips have in their turn banished valve and transistor products. Dear energy makes manufacturing as a whole less profitable relative to other activities. Obsolescence is a matter of degree. Vehicle workers could probably price themselves back into world markets by suf-

a better idea of economic capacity, then manufacturing production is only about 6 per cent below its realistic norm and the stimulus demanded by most commentators would produce mainly an inflationary boom. The label "monetarist" is a dreadful misnomer for those who disbelieve that financial manipulation can overcome real world problems.

If the view represented by the lower and more pessimistic capacity curve is correct, it certainly does not mean that we are doomed to permanent mass unemployment. On the contrary, a rise in the reward of capital relative to that of labour would both help to finance investment in new activities and provide an incentive to make that investment use labour to a rational degree.

Many people would oppose a rise in the return to capital, relative to the reward of labour, on the grounds that this would make the rich richer and the poor poorer. This is based on a misunderstanding. The way to deal with such a threat—if it were to materialise—would be to reform the structure of property ownership so that capital was more widely dispersed. There are numerous ideas here ranging from full-scale market socialism to specially created popular unit trusts and inheritance taxes to encourage greater dispersal of wealth at death. Their full-scale exploration would be a separate subject. But if political forces try just to hold the return to capital down artificially and prop up the reward to labour in a spirit of ersatz radicalism, then to the extent that they are successful, they will simply delay the next world investment boom and perpetuate unemployment.

Samuel Brittan

Letters to the Editor

Flared-off gas

From Mr R. Jackson

Sir—Mr J. Allan's letter (September 16) invites some comments. Mr Allan is not worried about gas being wastefully flared; our government will, quite rightly, prevent this from happening except when operationally desirable.

While North Sea gas reserves are not unlimited they are greater than commonly believed. When rewards are right, much gas remains to be discovered, appraised and produced.

Extrapolation on the basis of static technology is always dangerous and the prospects of our ever returning to the smelly coal gas stations of yore are about nil.

Many of us have believed for some time that the proper solution for North Sea gas gathering would be an international collecting line from Stavanger southwards, with landfalls in all appropriate countries that have a need for the gas, certainly including Britain, Holland and Germany and possibly Norway, Denmark and Belgium as well.

All that would be needed thereafter for the finance to be forthcoming, public or private in origin, would be the assurance of fair disposal prices and reasonable competition from potential users. The quantities available should be sufficient to last well into the next century and if some revision of our own ideas on consumption and disposal in this country is called for, this would be a matter for us to decide.

R. O. Jackson, 85 Burgess Road, Thorpe Bay, Essex.

Grandiose projects

From Miss C. Macdonald

Sir—It is regrettable that the Government has decided against the North Sea gas gathering pipeline; it is even more regrettable to learn that the Channel tunnel idea is now being resurrected for discussion between Mrs Thatcher and President Mitterrand. The North Sea gas project would have provided many new jobs and conserved a highly valuable national asset, whereas the Channel tunnel would merely facilitate an ever-growing flow of unnecessary imports from the EEC and be of no advantage to the vast majority of us.

One might have hoped that a salutary lesson had been learnt from the wasteful and costly folly of Concorde—but no! It seems that our rulers are always entranced by these grandiose and astronomically expensive "prestige" projects which are of no benefit to the ordinary people of the country.

Money would be far better spent on creating jobs by a crash programme of house building and restoration, accompanied by a complete modernisation of our Victorian sewer systems in London and other cities which are now in imminent danger of collapse. Or must we wait for a typhoid epidemic before action is taken?

How to finance these programmes? Instead of borrowing bank credit, the Government should reassume its neglected prerogative of issue by itself creating the appropriate credit and thereby spare the country the heavy burden of bank interest. All new projects in-

evitably cause some degree of temporary inflation pending the actual creation of new assets, but against this must be offset the immense savings made in payments of unemployment and social security benefits, not to mention the badly needed boost to national morale.

(Miss) Clare Macdonald, 70 Courtyard Avenue, Cranbrook, Wotton, Essex.

Confidence in steel

From the Managing Director, New Product Management

Sir—Your headlines on September 12 report that the Government is abandoning support to build a £2.7bn gas-gathering project. On page 2 you note that the Japanese are to spend £1.9bn this year on steel, mainly to expand capacity in fast moving areas such as seamless pipes for gas and oil exploration and development, which is expected to expand by 50 per cent over the next year or so.

Given gas-gathering revenue anticipated to be £25bn, and Japanese confidence in related steel products, perhaps British Steel might be encouraged to invest in the project, with or without Government support, since the opportunity for profit and employment seems too good to ignore.

E. T. Parker, 60 Box 22, 60 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.

Why not use balloons?

From Mr P. Lederman

Sir—Now that the means for recovering currently wasted natural gas produced from North Sea oil rigs have to be reconsidered, it may be worth looking at an adaptation of a method once suggested for transporting natural gas over long distances which could be used more effectively in the North Sea.

At each rig, some of the escaping gas could inflate large-capacity tethered balloons continually, floating off as now at other times. The balloons could periodically be towed by tug to shore terminals, winched down, and deflated into the gas storage system. Deflated balloons would be carried back aboard the tugs to the rigs for re-inflation, and the process repeated.

This would not be continuous or capable of recovering whole gas output like a pipeline system, but it could profitably come on stream almost immediately and save a huge amount in investment costs. Paul Lederman, 13, Berkeley Close, Epsom, Surrey.

A system for road-upping

From Mr J. Eadie

Sir—The phrase "urban renewal" has been mentioned more and more frequently. To the average person it suggests new buildings in place of old (or careful renovation of outstanding old ones) and the re-laying of roads, road signs, new systems of street lighting, traffic lights, post boxes, district heating schemes, facilities for public transport, tree-planting and other amenities, in addition to new water, gas and electricity

mains and new drainage. It is however most unusual for all these works to be dealt with either simultaneously or in precise sequence, so that a road surface is dug up, and after the underground works have been dealt with, re-surfaced with the expectation of being left without the need for further repairs for any noticeable length of time.

Our system of financing the making of new streets in the past has depended on a once-for-all payment by frontagers, or by builders, and subsequent upkeep out of the rates.

Perhaps one of our towns should try, as a pilot scheme, a road renewal system aimed at the relaying of all streets (and renovation of buildings and re-laying of all mains) over a period of thirty or forty years. Each road or group of roads could be dealt with at one time with builders and the statutory undertakings all co-operating on a properly timed schedule to produce a total renovation. One phase (or area) would follow another so that as one section scheme drew to a close, the next one would be mid-way and the further one just being started. The financing would need equally careful dovetailing.

If such a scheme were tried, it could be monitored, improved upon and adapted for elsewhere. The people who live and work in any particular area would be able to contribute useful suggestions for improvements on account of their use and experience of the area concerned. Ratepayers would also see the rates being used to the advantage of the town and all its users.

J. Eadie, 35 Stilehall Gardens, W4.

Small business management

From Mr D. Ogilvie

Sir—Mr Lawson (September 4) and John Forbes-Dale (September 9) each in their way provide a good illustration of the key problem faced by small business management in Britain today—the technical language barriers that consistently impede comprehension of precisely what government agencies, professional or commercial institutions and business information sources are set up to do for small businesses, and what the small business manager must unavoidably do for himself.

It is not a question of accepting externally imposed disciplines, financial or otherwise, but rather, of ensuring that the enterprise, however small, is run on the basis of consistent and workable management plans which are clear and acceptable to all concerned in the business. These include all "participants" in the business, however remote, and their varying interests must be satisfied if continuity and survival is to be ensured. Sound general management must be geared to take account of these interests, and this dictates a minimum level of organisation in all the disciplines involved, like it or not.

Unfortunately, the qualities cultivated by our innovators, entrepreneurs or producers, and of which they are rightly proud—a technical expertise, dedication, vision, risk-taking—are, by themselves, never enough. They understandably concentrate on what interests them most or on what they

know best, and some appear reluctant to adopt the elementary corporate, executive or operational planning disciplines essential to the identification and exploitation of market opportunity, and to the pursuit of profits and growth—all pre-conditions of survival. Such omissions in management practice are rarely wilful, but are misunderstandings arising from an ambiguous technical language which can suggest that methods employed by British Airways or GEC could not possibly apply to the business of a two-man widget maker, or alternatively, might so be applied by dictat.

Hence, we have two writers, one of whom believes that effective monitoring and control procedures can be imposed on small businesses from outside, and another who regards such procedures as of secondary importance, if not superfluous. Once it is accepted, however, that all businesses must be based on plans of some sort, short, medium and long term, and that budgeting, cash forecast, management reporting and control procedures are no more than the charting and execution of such plans in money terms, then the owner-manager can start to manage his company well and minimise the risks of interruption by concerned outsiders. A common language for communication will have been found, producing a fruitful exchange of ideas and allowing access to the many readily available sources of information designed to help the small businessman. D. Bruce Ogilvie, 87, Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Structured approach

From the Vice-President, Institute of Cost and Management Accountants

Sir—Mr Forbes-Dale (September 9) is clearly right to point out that financial dogma is of little help, compared with meaningful assessment of what information is required and to what use it is put.

It was surprising, however, that he classified management accounts under the dogmatic rather than the meaningful heading! By definition, they are not imposed by outsiders, but are developed so as to provide a sound basis for decision-making.

Never has it been more important to have a structured approach to such forward-looking tasks as pricing, production planning, stock control, wage negotiations and capital investment. Such structures are usually referred to as management accounts. David Allen, 63 Portland Place, W1.

Going solar—400 years ago

From Mr G. White

Sir—I read with interest the September 13 article on solar energy by Elaine Williams. The passive solar heating system built into this cottage has been working effectively for approximately four hundred years as in many other Devonshire cottages built with all windows on the south-facing wall. G. B. White, Ye Olde Pouldre, Bullen Street, Thorton, Devon.

Today's Events

GENERAL
UK: Liberal Party conference debates include youth employment, the arts, violence, and economic resources, Llandudno. Institute of Directors conference on the financial and legal implications of management buy-outs. Royal Television convention opens, Cambridge (to September 20). Scottish Prison Officers annual conference opens, Edinburgh (to September 18). Overseas: EEC Finance Ministers meet, Brussels. European Parliament discusses supplementary budget for 1981, Strasbourg. Financial Times Euro-Korean

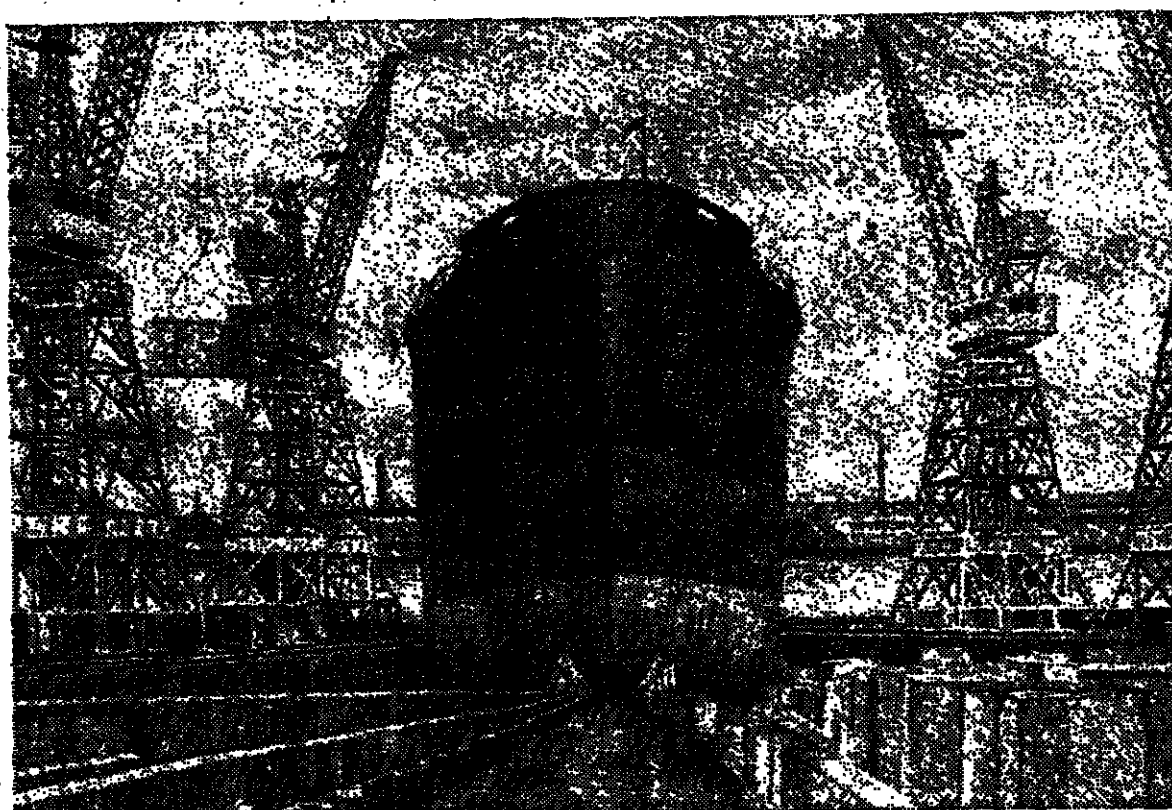
Symposium concludes, Brussels.
The Economist two-day conference on international oil supplies stockpiling opens, Hamburg. **OFFICIAL STATISTICS**
Department of Industry publishes second quarter revised figures for capital expenditure by the manufacturing, distributive and service industries; and manufacturers' and distributors' stocks. **COMPANY MEETINGS**
Cawdow Industrial Holdings, 489 Lower Broughton Road, Salford, 12.00. Courts (Furnishers),

Crown House, Morden, Surrey, 11.00. Distillers, North British Hotel, Edinburgh, 12.15. Dom Holdings, Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street, EC, 12.00. MFI Furniture, Wembley Conference Centre, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex, 12.00. Magnet and Southern, Midland Hotel, Peter Street, Manchester, 12.00. Mitchell Somers, 9 Little Trinity Lane, EC, 12.00. Ratners (Jewellers), Churchill Hotel, 30 Portman Square, W, 12.00. Sieck Gorman, Winchester House, 100 Old Broad Street, EC, 12.00. Trustees Corporation, Mermaid

House, 2 Puddle Dock, 12.45. Ward and Goldstone, Midland Hotel, Peter Street, Manchester, 11.30.

COMPANY RESULTS
Final dividends: Brannon, Manson Finance Trust. Interim dividends: Wm Baird, Berkeley Hambro Property, Boddington Breweries, Booker McConnell, Guest Keen and Nettelfolds, KCA International, London and Holyrood Trust, London and Provincial Trust, Harold Perry Motors, Sale Tilney Steedley, UDS Group, James Wilkes, Williams and James (Engineers), Interim figures: Tavenor Rutledge.

Some exporters think Bank of America only handles U.S. based trade



So how can we help float a bulk carrier to the Philippines from the West?

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aspect of foreign exchange—from advice to actual cover. For every transaction, we have the resources and the presence necessary to deliver—from London. And so we should have. This year we celebrate 50 years in the City. We are also represented in Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh. Individual account officers will service your company's specific needs. They're backed by a team of specialists that makes us the Number One American bank in the U.K. Next time you think of trade finance, think of us. And our team.

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Burmah's profit gain offset by tax charge

FOR THE half year ended June 30 1981 Burmah Oil Company has pushed up its turnover from £512.5m to £574.4m, net of duties, and achieved a £3.3m increase in taxable profits to £53m.

Below the line, however, tax charges are up from £15.5m to £23.5m and there is a £55m extraordinary debit representing the current estimate of the tax arising from the decision to close the Ellesmere Port Refinery.

Present indications are that depressed market conditions will prevent any significant improvement in the full year's operating profit over the £24.2m for 1980—pre-tax figure for that period was £23.3m.

Although Thistle earnings should be higher—the amount to £21.5m (£15.5m) for the six months—and operating profit will no longer be diminished by losses from refining (Ellesmere), the directors say these gains are likely to be nullified by poor results from UK industrial and automotive activities.

High tax charge was because of the "ring fence" effect on higher Thistle earnings, which cannot be offset against losses elsewhere. Profit after tax for the full period will be severely penalised by this factor, directors state, and is therefore likely to fall well short of the £31.5m for last year.

Before the extraordinary item, first-half earnings are 5.6p (8.1p) per £1 share and the interim dividend is unchanged at 1.5p net—last year's final was 5p.

Of the £43.5m (£38.4m) first-half operating profit, £42.2m (£37.1m) was from oil and gas with the other various divisions contributing with the remainder split as to: automotive £1.7m loss (£0.4m profit); engineering £3.7m profit (£1.1m); industrial products £2.6m (£3.5m); shipping £3.6m (£0.4m loss); unallocated expenses were £2.9m (£3.3m). The contribution from the

HIGHLIGHTS

The clearing banks pushed up their base rates by two points to 14 per cent yesterday, as expected, although Midland stood out of line on its seven-day deposit rate. Lex considers yesterday's interest rate news before moving on to look at the various results from the corporate sector. RTZ came up with sharply lower half-time profits, due to recent weakness in metal prices, strikes and poor demand, but the dividend has been maintained and some benefit from weaker sterling is expected to flow through in the closing half. Burmah Oil's operating profits have risen during the first six months but a higher North Sea tax charge has taken the edge off the earnings level, and a massive below the line extraordinary write-off against Ellesmere Port leaves a large red figure at the bottom line. Elsewhere Lex rounds up a very busy day for the insurance sector. Eagle Star produced its half-year figures, Legal and General announced a large U.S. deal and Winterthur finally agreed terms with Provident Life.

Thistle oilfield was a result of increased production, higher prices and the strength of the dollar, the directors explain. The automotive business continued to suffer badly from depressed UK market conditions.

Within the shipping total, an increase in the loss on oil tanker operations as a result of poor trading conditions, was more than offset by higher LNG earnings and because certain sums formerly charged as operating costs are treated as interest payable, following the signing of the Bahamas Terminal Agreement.

Operating profit for the group included results for the Ellesmere Port Refinery up to May 21 1981, when it was decided that the full period will be severely penalised by this factor, directors state, and is therefore likely to fall well short of the £31.5m for last year.

Costs will include a substantial write-off of fixed assets, specific closure costs, including redundancies, and other losses arising during the close-down period. Some £5m of these losses arise on the realisation of

stocks and would have been a charge against operating profit in the half year, had the decision not been taken, directors say.

They explain that the extraordinary charge will inevitably result in a substantial reduction in reserves. The level of stockholders' funds, however, is sufficient to absorb this adjustment and the rationalisation will bring "considerable benefits in the future by eliminating losses and releasing over £30m of working capital."

Reserves were credited with £9m, as at June 30, from movements in exchange rates.

The directors state that the disposal of the Indian Government of the assets of the wholly-owned subsidiary, Assam Oil Company and of Burmah's 50 per cent interest in Oil India should be confirmed shortly with the enactment of a Bill now before the Indian Parliament.

The compensation of some £13m will improve liquidity, they add, and bring a small net gain to the group.

Berwick Timpo back to losses

PRE-TAX LOSSES at Berwick Timpo, manufacturer and marketer of toys, increased in the first half of 1981, to £416,164, compared with £237,641. Sales for the period declined from £4.25m to £4.21m—volume decrease of 12 per cent.

Although the net interim dividend is being maintained at 2p per 25p share Mr J. D. Oakley, the chairman, warns that with current trading reflecting a lack of buying confidence and with still no sign of the long-awaited upturn in the economic situation the company will not be able to maintain the profit level of last year—taxable surplus for 1980 was £1,068m. He says the level of the final dividend (4p) will depend on the outcome for the year and trading prospects.

Mr Oakley says that although the order position has improved since the time of the annual report it is still down, having been adversely affected by imports and clearance sales.

Tax for the first half took £216,405 (£149,573) and after extraordinary debits last year of £200,000 and £100,000, pre-tax dividend payments of £1,367 were paid. There was a deficit attributable to ordinary shareholders of £201,136 (£339,435). Stated loss per share was 3.88p (2.48p).

comment

Berwick Timpo shares have lost a third of their value since June. It has gradually become clear not only that this is going to be another terrible year for the UK toy industry but also that any hopes of recovery next year are probably over-optimistic.

A depressed market has suffered the additional disruption of low-cost stocks emerging from other manufacturers' distress selling. Meanwhile some jittery retailers have already begun cancelling orders, a practice normally encountered in late November if Christmas trading is turning sour.

As last year, Berwick has it all to do in the second half but the chairman seems to be warning that the group is unlikely to come close to the £1.3m earned in the closing half of last year. Although the interim dividend has been maintained, the market does not seem to expect much, if any, gain at 47p, the 1981 low, the shares yield 19 per cent. The market capitalisation of £2.5m represents a discount of over 40 per cent on net assets but the company has a strong balance sheet.

See Lex

L & G surges 60% to £13.8m in first half

A jump of nearly 60 per cent in group profit in the first half of the year from £8.7m to £13.8m is reported by Legal and General Group.

Underwriting losses were virtually halved from £8.7m to £4.8m and investment income up by one-quarter to £15.8m (£12.6m). Long-term profits showed a 20 per cent jump to £7.5m.

The group is lifting its interim dividend, by one-third from 3p to 4p.

Individual life business in the UK continued to expand with new annual premiums climbing 27 per cent from £13.2m to £16.7m and single premiums more than doubling to £14.8m (£6.6m). The unit-linked subsidiary showed particularly good results with new annual premiums rising over 50 per cent to £2.3m, against £1.5m, while single premiums nearly doubled to £10.8m.

However, pensions and group life business in the UK declined over the period, with new annual premiums falling 8 per cent to £22.9m (£20.6m), and single premiums dropping 23 per cent to £8.7m.

Mr Ron Peet, L & G's chief executive said that these pension figures reflected the effect of the recession with redundancies and the decline in wage increases in pension benefits for existing scheme members. The decline was in line with expectations and forecasts.

He expected the rest of the year to continue to show good growth for individual life business in the UK but at a slightly lower rate than for the first six months.

Worldwide premium income from life and pension business, both annual and single, premiums, rose by £18.5m in the half year to £273.1m.

General insurance premiums rose from £30.2m to £35.9m, with UK net premiums showing a 23 per cent increase to £33.3m (£24.3m).

The improvement in the underwriting position came almost entirely from the UK, where losses were cut from £4.2m to £200,000. There had been an improvement in householders' business following the mild winter and reflecting the

higher premium rates and revised terms.

Motor insurance was better, but there is still room for improvement, and the lower numbers of large fire losses had contributed to a satisfactory experience in the commercial accounts.

Underwriting losses in Australia remained unchanged at £1.4m, with the market remaining extremely difficult. There was an improvement in the other overseas results reflecting the cessation of short term business in France.

Underwriting losses of the reinsurance subsidiary Victory Insurance rose slightly from £1.3m to £1.6m on premium income up by 7 per cent to £20.6m (£19.2m).

Mr Peet warned that general reinsurance business remained depressed by worldwide overcapacity and inadequate rate levels and little improvement could be expected in the immediate future.

L & G also announced its entry into the U.S. life market with the agreed bid for Government Employees Life Insurance Company costing US\$140m.

See Lex

Epicure earns and pays more

AFTER A 30 per cent increase in midway profits, Epicure Holdings continued to advance in the second half, with the net for the half year to June 30 the pre-tax figure emerged £270,000 higher at £975,000.

An increased final of 1p (0.85p) raises the total from 1.25p to 1.5p net.

Stated earnings per 5p share were 3.92p (2.95p). Turnover was higher at £10.18m (£9.34m) and payments rose to £26,000 (£28,000). Tax took £24,000 (£28,000).

Retained profits were £600,000 (£509,000) after provisions for minorities and £142,000 (£170,000) and extraordinary items of £250,000 (£287,000 credit).

On a CCA basis pre-tax profits were £563,000 (£500,000) and on the same basis earnings per share were 3.52p (2.19p). The company is involved in construction, industry services, hotels and property investments.

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J. Hewitt tumbles to £64,000

A sharp downturn in pre-tax profits is reported by J. Hewitt and Son (Farnham), retractor manufacturer, for the first half of 1981. The figure tumbled from £200,000 to £64,000, but the company is introducing interim dividends.

The pre-tax profit of £64,000 (£200,000) was a single payment of 1.5p was made.

Although the second half should show some improvement, the chairman Mr D. K. Hewitt says that the full year's result will be substantially below last year's.

Sales for the six months were down from £2.1m to £1.9m. Stated earnings per 25p share were left at 1.5p (97p) after tax of £17,000 (£59,000). Attributable earnings divided to £74,000 (£218,000).

Yearlings total £14.6m

Yearling bonds totalling £14.6m at 141 per cent redeemable on September 22 1982 have been issued this week by the following local authorities:

Kennerley DC (£8.25m); St. James's Metropolitan BC (£0.8m); South Tyneside (Borough of) (£0.4m); Tewkesbury BC (£1d); Three Rivers DC (£0.25m); Liverpool (City of) (£2.5m); Chesterfield (Borough of) (£0.5m); Glasgow (City of) (£1.5m); Ards Borough DC (£0.25m); Bassetlaw BC (£0.5m); Gillingham (Borough Council of) (£0.5m); Hillingdon (London Borough of) (£1m); Kingston upon Hull (City of) (£1m); Wirral Metropolitan Borough of (£1m); East Devon DC (£0.5m); Forest Heath DC (£0.5m); Newcastle upon Tyne (City of) (£1m); Newcastle BC (£0.5m); Ogwr BC (£0.5m); Welling Hatfield DC (£0.5m).

Eagle Star advances to £38.5m

LOWER underwriting losses in the UK and a strong advance in investment income enabled Eagle Star Holdings to raise pre-tax profits in the first six months of this year by 30 per cent to £38.5m, against £29.5m.

World-wide underwriting losses were cut from £14.8m to £14m, while investment income rose to £42.3m, a 21.6 per cent gain on last year's £34.8m.

Shareholders' life profits rose marginally from £5.3m to £5.9m, while the pre-tax profits of Grovewood Securities, the industrial subsidiary, were unchanged at £5.2m. The net surplus after taxation and minorities, at £30.5m, was a 31 per cent increase on the previous £18.8m.

The interim dividend is lifted 2p to 7p per share. The company has already forecast a dividend of at least 15p for 1981 in connection with the tender offer made earlier this year by Allianz Versicherungs, a leading West German insurance company.

Premium income, excluding life, increased by 7 per cent from £229.9m to £246.4m, the underlying growth rate allowing for the effect of exchange rate movements being 6 per cent. Similarly the underlying increase in investment income, allowing for

exchange rate fluctuations, was 20 per cent.

The improvement in the underwriting position came solely from the UK, the group's main operating territory, where losses were reduced by 20 per cent from £11.6m to £9.2m. Premium income rose by only 5 per cent to £181.7m, as growth was limited by fierce competition and pressure on premium rates.

The UK motor account continued to record higher underwriting losses despite improved claims frequencies. Eagle Star has not increased its motor premium rates for some time and has no intention of doing so in the near future.

The "all-in" household account showed a substantial reduction in underwriting losses helped by the mild winter, and losses came mainly from rising theft claims under the contents section.

The commercial fire account made a small profit. The employer's liability account has now stabilised and is showing better results, but the public liability account declined. The rising costs of personal injury claims continue to affect both the motor and liability accounts.

See Lex

Bemrose first half upsurge

PROFITS OF Bemrose Corporation advanced sharply in the six months ended June 30 1981, the first-half figure emerging at £768,000, compared with £114,000. Turnover, however, was down from £24.21m to £23.13m, the reduction stemming from the divested book publishing imprint.

The directors say that as yet there is no reduction in the severity of price competition and when there will be a marked improvement in the market place.

They are paying an interim dividend of 1.5p net per 25p

share and state that given the effects of the action which commenced in June 1981, the profits, they expect to be able to recommend a final of not less than 1.5p.

Last year the interim was omitted but a final of 1.5p was paid from taxable profits of £338,000 (£1,130m).

At the annual meeting in March the directors anticipated a significant recovery in profits for 1981 which would allow them to recommend higher levels of distribution.

The pre-tax surplus for the first half of the current year was struck after depreciation of £227,000 (£712,000), and interest charges lower at £421,000, against £667,000.

Tax took £75,000 (£3,000) and after dividends payments of £174,000 (£5,000) there was a transfer to reserves of £518,000 (£106,000).

Current cost accounting reduces the taxable profits to £103,000.

The group's interests include packaging, printing and heat transfer printing.

Elimination of one major loss-maker—its book publishing division—and an emphasis on cost reduction have brought about an

impressive recovery in profits at Bemrose. Volume in the continuing operations has much reduced, but despite intense price-competition gains in productivity have enabled margins to reach more satisfactory levels.

The business is being run on an assumption that there will be no revival in demand, but enough capacity has been retained to accommodate an upturn. Spare capacity throughout the European packaging industry would maintain the competitive pressure even then. For the time being, large monthly fluctuations in order books—always very short—make it hazardous to project these results to the end of the year. The board has nevertheless hinted that the final dividend will at least match the interim; at 53p (up 4p) the yield is 8.3 per cent. On a prospective fully taxed p/a of 8, the shares are fairly valued.

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Mexican 'bulldog' yield

The \$50m "bulldog" flexibond for the Government of Mexico, 37 and 37½, was County Bank arrived at an arithmetic mean of 87.23 to yield 15.47 per cent.

It was priced last night at 97.33 to yield 16.97 per cent at redemption. Lead manager County Bank said the pricing, which is 150 basis points above the 13½ per cent Treasury Stock 2004-08, was completed at 3 pm yesterday.

The Mexican public offer, which matures in 2008, carries a 16½ per cent coupon and is the first sterling foreign bond to be sub-underwritten by UK institutions.

The Treasury stock to which its pricing is related, was yesterday being bid at prices between

ROY KING

The Roy King Group wishes to point out that none of the companies in the group—Roy C. King, Bueche Girod, King Watches and Roy C. King (Manufacturing)—is in any way connected with Roy King Properties which has recently gone into voluntary liquidation.

SPAIN	Price	Change
Sept 16		
Banco Bilbao	36	+0.1
Banco Central	380	
Banco Exterior	415	
Banco Hispania	410	
Banco Ind. del C.	415	
Banco Santander	382	
Banco Urquijo	244	+4
Banco Vizcaya	400	
Banco Zaragoza	270	-2
Dragados	202	-2
Espartero Zinc	76	+1
Gasol	52	+0.2
Gasol Preciados	78	+3
Hidrova	81.2	-0.3
Industria	59	+0.2
Petroleros	121	+1.5
Petrubler	82	
Sogefisa	51	-0.5
Telefonos	76	-0.5
Union Elct.	76.0	-1.2

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LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Sept. 16, Total Contracts 885, Calls 882, Puts 83

Option	Ex-raise	Closing	Vol.	Closing	Vol.	Equity
price	offer		offer		close	
BP (c)	280	18	3	34	1	42
BP (c)	300	7	13	22	1	30
BP (c)	320	1	10	4	1	18
BP (c)	340	1	10	4	1	18
BP (c)	360	17	12	94	1	28
BP (c)	380	1	10	4	1	18
CU (c)	140	80	2	89	2	150p
CU (c)	180	2	1	8	1	12
CU (c)	200	2	1	8	1	12
Coma. Glid (c)	460	70	1	62	6	95
Coma. Glid (c)	500	51	37	36	1	72
Coma. Glid (c)	540	10	10	10	1	89p
Courtside (c)	50	12	8	7	6	10
Courtside (c)	60	5	1	7	6	10
QEC (c)	700	97	1	127	1	110
QEC (c)	720	10	87	87	1	797p
QEC (c)	740	28	10	62	2	77
QEC (c)	760	10	4	30	1	77
QEC (c)	780	10	4	30	1	77
Gr'd Met (c)	120	10	4	30	1	77
Gr'd Met (c)	140	5	7	11	60	18
Gr'd Met (c)	160	7	1	18	6	18
Gr'd Met (c)	180	7	1	18	6	18
Gr'd Met (c)	200	48	10	43	1	44
ICI (c)	240	34	10	10	1	870p
ICI (c)	260	18	1	80	30	30
ICI (c)	280	7	85	5	10	1
ICI (c)	300	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	320	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	340	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	360	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	380	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	400	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	420	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	440	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	460	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	480	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	500	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	520	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	540	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	560	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	580	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	600	1	1	5	10	1
ICI (c)	620	1</				

UK COMPANY NEWS

Tricentral rises to £24m after first six months

SECOND-QUARTER pre-tax profits of Tricentral improved from £9.7m to £12.04m, raising the total for the first six months of 1981 to £24m, compared with £20.52m for the corresponding period last year. Total revenue for the half year amounted to £113.75m (£38.07m) of which net sales contributed £111.16m (£36.98m) and interest income £2.6m (£1.09m).

The directors point out that the demerger of the group's oil and gas operations was completed on July 14 and the figures of the demerged company, Combined Technologies Corporation (Comtech), are not therefore consolidated in the results for the half year.

The net interim dividend is being maintained at 2.5p per 25p share—last year the group paid a total of 8.4p.

The pre-tax surplus for the half year was subject to supplementary petroleum duty of £4.92m (nil), petroleum revenue tax of £9.91m (£7.57m) and corporation tax of £4.74m (£3.64m). Cash flow per share was 56.2p (50.6p).

A consolidated statement of income shows a net loss attributable to commercial activities, Comtech—demerged (including expenses of demerger) £2.1m (£951,000 profit); discontinued £296,000 loss (£232,000 loss).

In UK activities production from the Thistle Field in the half year was 21,688m barrels (19,522m) of which Tricentral's share was 2,05m (1,577m).

Production was at a fairly low level during the second quarter due mainly to remedial work on two wells. The average daily rate over the first half of the year was 119,801bbl.

At the end of June there were 32 development wells, 21 of which were completed for oil production, nine for water injection and two which can be used for the injection of either gas or water. It is expected that field development will require 45 wells to be drilled.

Extensive maintenance work meant that production was reduced and, for a short time, shut down. Although the monthly production was reduced, the annual total is not expected to be significantly affected.

In preparation for the 8th Round of UK offshore bidding, proprietary seismic data has been acquired and general technical evaluation is progressing.

During the second quarter, £7.6m of the Thistle loan was repaid leaving a balance of £18.5m outstanding at June 30.

In Canada Tricentral participated in 28 wells in the half year, of which six were gas wells, 17 dry holes and one abandoned. Six new projects have been initiated in which the group has the right to earn varying interests by drilling.

Four other new projects and extensions to older prospects resulted in additions to its land holdings.

In the U.S. the group participated in 54 wells which resulted in 14 oil wells, 22 gas wells, 17 dry holes and one abandoned. Natural gas production was lower, the decrease

Geo. Scholes regains some ground

A **STRONG** recovery after the mid-year profits slide was made by George H. Scholes and Co., the Wyrex electrical products group, in the year to June 30, 1981.

With second half taxable profit at £1.4m, only marginally behind the £1.48m achieved a year earlier, the company reports a full time total of £1.79m, against £2.45m on sales some £1m lower at £14.86m.

The net dividend is being maintained at 12.52p for a total of 16.52p (18.52p).

The directors say the upturn in the second six months arose from the actions, outlined in the mid-year report of streamlining and a 10 per cent cut in work force. At half-time profit had slid from £1.03m to £390,000 with the deepening recession coming just as the company was increasing capital investment.

Stated earnings per 25p share came out at 21p (36.5p) after tax of £884,189 (£921,288).

Delta tumbles midterm to £6.4m but pays same

REFLECTING THE increased impact of the UK recession, 1981 first-half taxable profit of the electrical and gas equipment and metals concern Delta Group was depressed from £13.45m to £6.44m. The company points out that this result was marginally better than that achieved for the second half of 1980 on little changed sales of £250m. Mid-year sales last time reached £233m.

Through the decline has stopped in most areas the demand for most of the group's products remain at a low level with no signs of a significant upturn. Meanwhile action to cut costs and raise efficiency continues.

Overseas, although the South African economy is beginning to ease and Macdon in that country and Extruded Metals in Australia have been sold, good profits are expected to continue for the rest of the year, says Lord Caldecote, the chairman.

Stated earnings per 25p share for the half year were 4.3p to 0.5p after tax of £2,344 (£6.86m). The net interim dividend is being held at 1.82p—last time a total of 3.64p was paid.

The relatively high tax charge

was due to low UK profitability, resulting in tax losses being carried forward, and an ACT write off.

At the trading level profit was down from £18.77m to £10.45m before interest costs about 20 per cent lower at £7.45m (£9.24m). Borrowings have been significantly reduced since half-time by the sale of Macdon.

At £350,000 (£450,000) going to minorities and dividends again absorbing £2.65m the attributable surplus came out sharply down from £8.08m to £700,000.

After-tax gains on metal of £700,000 (£1,350m) were not included in the figures.

On a current cost basis there was an attributable group loss of £3.93m (£1.13m).

During the six months virtually all areas of UK sales were depressed by the recession but the progress of its takeover aspirations, with Jersey Paper as the pivot, may decide the speed and strength of further re-rating. It is worth noting that the sector it wants to expand into is highly fragmented and it would be unwise to look for a quantum rise in earnings after any one particular deal. But, the shares remain a firm hold.

merchandising arm has enlarged its geographic base. Buzal probably on hand has enough to compensate, with something to spare, for the secular decline of UK cigarette consumption but the progress of its takeover aspirations, with Jersey Paper as the pivot, may decide the speed and strength of further re-rating. It is worth noting that the sector it wants to expand into is highly fragmented and it would be unwise to look for a quantum rise in earnings after any one particular deal. But, the shares remain a firm hold.

Trafford soars to over £2m

PROFIT BEFORE tax rose from £1.33m to £2.02m at Trafford Park Estates for the year to June 30, 1981 and the final dividend is being lifted from 3.75p to 4.5p, raising the net assets to £1.25m compared with 6p and £1.25m.

Stated earnings per 25p ordinary share were up from 8.27p to 10.55p.

Gross income of this industrial and commercial property developers was higher at £5.2m (£4.82m), which included rentals up at £2.51m (£2.24m) and housing and trading higher at £2.74m (£2.58m). Second half results rose to £1.1m (£818,965).

The tax charge was increased to £872,507 (£961,617) leaving the net balance at £1.15m (£942,781). After deductions for minority interests, attributable profits were £1.13m (£882,820).

Turnround for British Mohair

A **TURNROUND** in results is reported for British Mohair Spinning, which showed a pre-tax profit of £535,000 for the six months to June 30 1981, against a loss of £168,000 for the same period last year.

The net interim dividend is held at 0.9p, the total payment last year was 3.77p. Turnover was lower at £11.7m (£11.16m)—overseas £4.37m (£3.15m) and UK £7.01m (same).

Bank borrowings have been further reduced since the end of 1980 with a saving in interest charges, down to £48,000 net from £286,000. Tax took £23,000 (nil).

The results for the latest half-year include about five months contributions from Jarol, bought in January 1981. Group profits after tax rose to £512,000 against a loss of £168,000. Extraordinary debits came to £50,000 (£49,000 debits) and preference dividends took £10,000 (£11,000) leaving attributable profits at £452,000 (loss £227,000). In the last full year attributable profits were £73,73m after a £3.58m tax write back.

Results for the next six months should be satisfactory, says chairman Mr. J. A. Clough, and any improvement in profits will depend on increased demand for group products.

Trading conditions for the half year were in line with expectations, and the rationalisation programme started last year has been completed with additional savings and increased efficiency. The improved result in the worsted spinning division was largely due to stabilising mohair prices and economies in production costs.

The subsidiaries continued to trade profitably and their contribution was similar to 1980. Further development is expected from Jarol in the future.

comment
British Mohair's recovery continues. Last year's 30 per cent price drop swamped trading profits as the company took a large stock write-down. Since that time, prices have not improved but the company has been backing away at costs. Two mills have been amalgamated with a resulting staff reduction of about 10 per cent. Stocks have been lowered and enough cash

Bunzl holds £6m and confident

WITH NET interest and dividends received offsetting a slight fall at the operating level, Bunzl Pulp and Paper nudged 1981 first half taxable profit forward from £6.02m to £6.08m on sales £24m higher at £110m.

The directors say that with some of the recent rationalisation are now flowing through, existing conditions remain difficult, particularly in the UK. Meanwhile, new businesses, with concentration on the U.S., Australia and the UK, are being sought.

Reflecting their confidence, they state the net interim dividend is being stepped up from 4.21p to 4.5p—a total of 7.23p was paid last year from a profit of £11.15m.

Stated earnings per 25p share for the half-year were 11.5p after tax of £2,771 (£2,731), but before an extraordinary debit of £44,000 (£381,000 credit).

The half-time results include two months figures from Jersey Paper Company, acquired in April. Here the results are well up to expectations and a major extension to its warehouse is planned.

At the end of June, group retained earnings and reserves were up from £55.59m to £57.77m.

During the six months in the UK, a significant decline in cigarette filter profits was offset by a substantially increased contribution from pulp and paper manufacturing, which has been taken on by the company because of the delivery of machines and goods.

There was a tax charge of £21,750 against a credit of £48,821, and stated earnings per 10p share were 0.26p against a loss of 4.74p.

comment
Bunzl has been through a significant re-rating over the last 12 months or so which has taken the shares up from an historic multiple of about 4 to a present 10 p/e of a little way short of 8 at 143p on outside forecasts of £1.25m pre-tax for 1981. Interim profits have been maintained, thanks solely to the interest position but, after topping a good deal of debt, the financial businesses should now be placed to push for complete recovery and, equally importantly, the group has the means and the targets with which to pursue a major acquisition programme. Liquid balance stands at about £8m, despite the outlay on Jersey Paper and the filter operation, for all the obvious weakness of the domestic tobacco market, are more than useful cash generators.

The group is taking the first step back into profits—the turnround between the two halves may be worth some £750,000—and the

merchandising arm has enlarged its geographic base. Bunzl probably on hand has enough to compensate, with something to spare, for the secular decline of UK cigarette consumption but the progress of its takeover aspirations, with Jersey Paper as the pivot, may decide the speed and strength of further re-rating. It is worth noting that the sector it wants to expand into is highly fragmented and it would be unwise to look for a quantum rise in earnings after any one particular deal. But, the shares remain a firm hold.



Interim Results

Unaudited results for the half-year ended 30th June 1981 of Legal & General Group Ltd.

	6 months 30.6.81 £m	6 months 30.6.80 £m	Year 1980 £m
Group Premium Income			
Pensions and life business	273.1	254.3	509.2
General insurance	85.8	80.2	147.6
Profit & Loss Account			
Long-term profits after tax	7.5	6.2	14.2
Short-term and shareholders' funds			
Underwriting loss	(4.8)	(8.7)	(15.5)
Investment income	15.8	12.6	27.1
Expenses not charged elsewhere	(2.6)	(1.9)	(4.8)
	8.4	2.0	6.8
Fees and charges receivable	3.1	2.8	5.4
Associated companies' profits	0.6	0.6	0.9
Group profit before tax	19.6	11.6	27.3
Tax	(5.7)	(2.8)	(5.7)
Minorities	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.2)
Group Profit attributable to shareholders	13.8	8.7	21.4
Earnings per Share based on group profit attributable to shareholders	9.22 p	5.82 p	14.30 p

An interim dividend of 4.0p per share (1980.3p) is payable on 4 January 1982. The associated tax credit for U.K. shareholders is 1.74p per share.

For a copy of the half-year report please complete the coupon.

To: John Neill, Legal & General Group Limited, Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP.

NAME _____

COMPANY (if any) _____

ADDRESS _____

AMC reduces interim as profits fall 54%

Amalgamated Metals Corporation, which announced last month it was in discussions with the German lead producer, Preussag AG of Germany, to acquire the 20.1 per cent AMC shares it does not already own, has reported a 54 per cent fall in half-time taxable profits to £3.35m and cut its interim dividend by a third.

Mr. P. J. Norton, secretary of AMC, said there was "absolutely nothing" to report on the discussions but he hoped for something soon. At the time of the announcement in August, AMC shares rose 87p to 387p. Yesterday, they eased 3p to 384p.

Turnover of the metal and mineral merchant and tin smelters was up slightly from £627m to £664m. After tax £1.9m (£3.65m), minorities £626,000 (£1.5m) and extraordinary debits £825,000 (£818,000), the group suffered an attributable loss of £82,000 compared with a profit of £1.3m. Earnings per share before extraordinary items were 11.5p (32.9p) and the interim dividend is 2p (3p).

The board stated the profitability of the group was falling because the price of tin had rendered the purchase and sale of tin-bearing slugs unattractive. The industrial division has been severely

affected by the UK recession although overseas operations have improved. The recession has also dampened activity on metal markets.

Extraordinary items comprise a £1.3m provision for rationalisation of Gardner Steel, partially offset by receipts of £475,000 from the liquidator of Williams Harvey. Since June 30, a further £440,000 has been received from this source.

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EUROPEAN OPTIONS EXCHANGE											
Series	Vol.	Nov. Last	Vol.	Nov. Last	Vol.	Nov. Last	Vol.	Nov. Last	Vol.	Nov. Last	Stock
GOLD C	8450	5	28	2	51	—	—	—	—	—	£480.50
GOLD C	8475	16	16	23	34	—	—	—	—	—	—
GOLD C	8500	16	16	23	34	—	—	—	—	—	—
GOLD C	8525	5	3	—	27 1/2	—	—	—	—	—	—
GOLD C	8550	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
GOLD C	8600	10	4.50	6	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
GOLD C	8650	1	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
GOLD P	8675	3	—	11	32	—	—	—	—	—	—
GOLD P	8800	3	49	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oct. Jan. April											
ABN C	F.300	31	6 A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	F.297
ARZO C	F.30	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	F.23.50
ARZO C	F.28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ARZO C	F.28.50	205	0.10	49	0.50	170	1.20	—	—	—	—
ARZO C	F.28	23	1.60	79	1.10	—	—	—	—	—	—
ARZO C	F.27.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
KODA C	F.70	—	—	2 1/2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
HEIN C	F.60	—	—	50	1.80	10	—	—	—	—	£44.75
HOOG C	F.12.50	—	—	—	—	1.80	—	—	—	—	F.16.10
HOOG C	F.80	—	—	20	0.70	—	—	—	—	—	—
IOLM C	F.90	48	10.80	85	10.50	—	—	—	—	—	F.95
KLM C	F.105	105	4.50	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
KLM C	F.110	60	1.90	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
KLM C	F.130	59	0.90	10	4.30	—	—	—	—	—	—
KLM P	F.80	11	0.50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
KLM P	F.90	80	1.20	15	4.50	—	—	—	—	—	—
KLM P	F.100	26	5.80 B	10	9 B	—	—	—	—	—	—
NEDL C	F.140	24	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	F.145.80
NEDL C	F.135	37	3.90	45	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
NEDL C	F.130	44	0.80	28	5.40	—	—	—	—	—	—
NEDL C	F.170	17	—	10	9.50	—	—	—	—	—	—
NEDL C	F.165	—	2	—	2.50	—	—	—	—	—	—
NEDL P	F.150	67	6.50 B	21	7.90	—	—	—	—	—	—
NEDL P	F.180	16	15.90 A	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
NATH P	F.110	—	—	—	—	14	3.50	—	—	—	F.112.50
NATH P	F.115	—	3.70	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PHIL C	F.20	173	1.40	60	2.60	70	5.10	—	—	—	E.21
PHIL C	F.32.50	51	0.80	160	1.30	25	8.40	—	—	—	—
PHIL C	F.30	106	1.10	168	0.70	78	1	—	—	—	—
PHIL C	F.27.50	20	0.10	45	0.30	—	—	—	—	—	—
PHIL P	F.80	677	0.40	61	0.80	—	—	—	—	—	—
PHIL P	F.38	61	0.40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
PHIL P	F.26	11	3.90	16	4.50	—	—	—	—	—	—
RD C	F.90	148	3.20	19	7	—	—	—	—	—	F.90.10
RD C	F.90	68	0.60	60	1.60	—	—	—	—	—	—
RD C	F.100	—	—	14	3.80	—	—	—	—	—	—
RD P	F.90	590	2.20	24	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
RD P	F.90	50	10	24	10.50 A	—	—	—	—	—	—
RD P	F.100	22	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNIL C	F.150	—	—	20	7.80	—	—	—	—	—	F.147.80
UNIL C	F.160	—	—	11	3.60	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNIL P	F.150	11	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nov. Feb. May											
SIEM C	DM.250	30	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	DM.255
SLY C	£75 1/2	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	£85 1/2
TOTAL VOLUME IN CONTRACTS 4557											
A=Asked B=Bid C=Call P=Put											

UK COMPANIES

Sirdar tops £5m in strong finish

WELL IN line with expectation at mid-term Sirdar, the Wakefield-based knitting and rug wool group, lifted taxable profit by almost £1m to £3.01m in the second six months of the year to June 30 1981. This takes the full year total from £3.71m to a record £5.31m.

The total dividend is being boosted by 2p to 7p net by an increased final of 4.3p. This is being paid from earnings per 25p share, ahead from 19.55p to 22.49p, one-for-one scrip issue is also proposed.

At half-time the company had said that profit at £2.31m (£1.67m) matched forecast and providing the level of trading was maintained the second half result was expected to be at least as good as the first.

Sales for the year reached £27.55m (£22.99m) and the profit included £112,000 interest received (£165,000 debit).

Tax took £1.85m (£1.31m) and the attributable surplus emerged at £3.46m (£2.4m).

On a current costs basis profit was £4.8m.

comment

Sirdar appears to be getting just

about everything right. The company's specialisation in

branded knitted yarns has

allowed it to offer retailers better

margins and thus keep its volume

buoyant in a declining market.

In the past four years this

formula has allowed the group

to double its return on net

capital employed to a sparkling

35 per cent. The group continues

to invest in new plant (some

£2m was spent last year) so that

very little of its equipment is

over 5 years old. The group's

balance sheet is strong and net

cash balances are now about

£2.7m. These funds will be used

to ease the year's move to the

new Wakefield facilities, which

will be carried out in phases.

Not surprisingly, the shares have

more than doubled in the last

year and yesterday's 5p

jump, they stand at 21.6p. At the

same time, shareholders' funds

have strengthened by 26 per cent

to £13.5m. With the prospect of

continued margin improvements,

a p/e of nearly 10 does not seem

too demanding. The dividend,

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Companies
and Markets

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

Criticism of France's nationalisation programme mounts. David Housego reports

Mitterrand faces a legal minefield

THE PROGRAMME of nationalisation on which the French Government has embarked is without parallel in Europe since the immediate post war years. But in undertaking it, the Socialists seem only recently to have come to realise that they have stumbled into a legal minefield with the prospect of litigation against the Government dragging on for years in courts in France and abroad.

Unlike the two previous waves of nationalisation in France in the 1930s and then in 1945-48, the industries and banks to be taken over now have substantial foreign interests, and foreigners hold a substantial proportion of their shares. St Gobain, the glass-to-electronics group, has for instance 40 overseas industrial subsidiaries, while almost half of the Banque de l'Indochine's (Indochine's) revenues are generated abroad.

The scope of the present nationalisation is also much wider, embracing not only major sectors like steel, chemicals and aluminium but also household electrical equipment (Thomson-Brandt) and investments in tourism (Paribas) and real estate. French shareholders, particularly those of Paribas and Credit Commercial de France whose chairmen have been outspokenly critical of the nationalisation measures, have begun to organise pressure groups.

The INA Corporation of Philadelphia, one of the largest insurers in the U.S. and which has a 5 per cent stake in the holding company Compagnie Financière de Suez, has sought "advice" from Mr Warren Christopher, the former

Deputy Secretary of State who is now with a Washington law firm. Saudi shareholders, who have an estimated 6-7 per cent stake in Thomson-CSF, which will effectively come under state control, have apparently been pressing the French government for clarification. The Paris-based law firm of Gide Loyrette Nouel has drawn up a background paper on the legal issues, and has been in touch with other international legal consultants across the world.

In all, nine industrial groups and 38 banks are now firmly scheduled to be taken over.

How strongly shareholders push their claims in the courts will in the last resort depend on how generous the compensation terms are. The daily newspaper Le Figaro yesterday morning carried what it claimed to be the final text of the nationalisation bill for the five main industrial groups (CGE, Thomson-Brandt, Saint-Gobain, Pechiney-Ugine-Kuhlmann and Rhone-Poulenc) in which the valuation of the companies would be on the basis of their average stock market (bourse) value between January 1 1978 and December 31 1980. The French securities commission (COB) has in the past argued that the valuation of companies being taken over should be on the basis of a combination of bourse value, net worth and profitability.

On the latter basis, some shareholder lobbyists claim, the government could be faced with a bill of FFf 60bn to FFf 140bn which compares with a total market capitalisation for the Bourse of FFf 240bn (\$42.9bn). If it is inconceivable that a Socialist government would



M. Jean-Marie Leveque, chairman of Credit Commercial de France and an outspoken critic of the State proposals

meet such demands, the figures show how large an area there is for dispute.

But compensation is only one of the areas in which the Government is likely to be challenged as the nationalisation measures begin their long journey through the Conseil d'Etat (the Government's legal advisory body), the National Assembly and the Senate, and almost certainly the Constitutional Court.

Points in dispute include: ● Territory. Opponents claim that there is a substantial body of international legal opinion and precedent, to which France has subscribed, under which

nationalisation is only applicable within the territory in which the law is enacted. Thus France, at a time when M. Francois Mitterrand was Minister for Justice declined to recognise that President Nasser's nationalisation of the Suez Canal extended to the canal company's property abroad. U.S. German and Austrian courts have also ruled against attempts by Hungary after the war to transfer to the state private shareholdings in foreign companies. The importance of this issue is that it lays open the possibility of shareholders abroad seeking injunctions that would freeze the assets and bank accounts abroad of those banks and industries that have been nationalised.

● Discrimination. French law prohibits discrimination between foreign and national shareholders or between small and large interest. Thus if foreign shareholders were paid in cash—as some would like—then French shareholders would be entitled to the same. The Prime Minister in his initial speech on nationalisation in June said that foreign shareholders would be free to retain or sell their shareholdings—but this has had to be dropped as being discriminatory. A similar problem may well arise from the distinction drawn by the Government between foreign and French-owned banks.

● Necessity. As traced back through the 1958, the 1946 and 1789 constitutions, French law provides that private property can only be taken over on the grounds of "public necessity" and with "fair" compensation. Opponents say that it is not evident that public necessity requires the takeover of banks

overseas operations or of companies involved in manufacturing household electrical equipment. The Government has in some ways undermined its own legal case for nationalisation by announcing that banks industrial holdings would be sold back to the private sector.

● International obligations. A 1959 treaty with the U.S. provides for compensation in the event of expropriation equivalent to the value of the goods expropriated.

The text of the government's measures is now before the Conseil d'Etat—which has turned back Bills in the past as unconstitutional. The Bills then pass to Parliament where the Opposition has a majority in the Senate. The Senate has powers to amend and reject though ultimately it can only delay as final power lies with the National Assembly. However, 60 senators or deputies—a number the Opposition can easily muster—have the power to refer a law to the Constitutional Council for a ruling. The council has a membership of nine. Though it does not see its duty as being to thwart the will of the National Assembly it has a record of amending or annulling legislation.

If the opposition challenges the government at every turn, the nationalisation measures might not become law until early next year. It would then be up to shareholders to decide whether to go to court. Partly in the hope of avoiding litigation, the government has made clear that in the event of difficulties in taking over banks' foreign interests it is prepared for negotiations. It is clear that litigation could drag on for years.

Rising crude oil costs hit earnings at French BP

BY TERRY DODSWORTH IN PARIS

THE MOUNTING financial difficulties of France's oil industry are underlined by figures from Societe Francaise des Petroles BP (SFBP), showing that the company did no more than break-even in the first half of this year.

SFBP's results follow hard on the heels of a warning from Total, one of France's two leading oil groups, that it was running into "unprecedented" losses in its refining and marketing subsidiaries.

Commenting on its first half performance, SFBP, the French subsidiary of British Petroleum, said that the poor results arose out of the combination of inadequate price levels and the big rise in the cost of buying new crude supplies due to the

rise in the dollar. Prices of many oil products are controlled by the Government in France, despite the recent dismantling of the main apparatus of price controls, while sales are also suffering from low demand.

Turnover in the first half rose to FFf 10.2bn (\$1.8bn) from FFf 8.8bn in the same period last year, whereas tonnage sold dropped to 6.2m against 7.1m in 1980. The amount of oil refined was also cut back, from 6.7m tonnes last year to 5.2m.

In order to contain losses, SFBP says it has cut stock levels. But crude oil purchasing costs still rose during the six months, from FFf 1.2bn in 1980 to FFf 1.7bn. Cash flow amounted to FFf 611m against FFf 810m in 1980.

First-half loss for Berkel

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

JAATSCHAP van Berkel reports a loss of F1 8.9m (\$3.4m) for the first half of 1981, compared with a profit of F1 2.9m in the corresponding period of 1980.

The Dutch electronic weighing equipment and cash register group said weak demand and keen competition has put pres-

sure on prices, leaving a sharply lower operating result. Turnover rose by 6.8 per cent to F1 265.7m.

For 1981 as a whole Berkel expects turnover to increase but it does not expect to report a profit for the year. In 1980 Berkel turned in a profit of F1 1.2m.

U.S. control for Italian wine group

By Rupert Cornwell in Rome

A leading U.S. wine trading concern has taken a 60 per cent stake in the capital of Casa Antinori, one of Italy's largest and best-known wine houses, specialising in the production of Chianti.

The purchaser is Banfi, a major importer of Italian wines into the U.S., where sales of Tuscan wines (of which the best known is Chianti) fell by 7 per cent last year.

No details have emerged about the purchase price of what is the most important direct investment thus far into the Italian wine industry. Banfi, however, is understood to have committed a total of 1.60bn (\$51m) into the Italian wine industry, most notably in Tuscany.

The strategy behind the transaction is to provide a notable cash injection into Antinori, and give it access to improved sales and marketing facilities in the fiercely competitive U.S. market. Banfi is already the largest distributor in the U.S. of Lambrusco sparkling red wine from the Emilia-Romagna region, of which sales in the U.S. are growing by 30 per cent a year.

German Ford to end loss as Escort sales take off

BY KENNETH GOODING, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT, IN FRANKFURT

FORD OF Germany, which suffered a DM 462.8m (\$200m) net loss last year, will break even in 1981 and possibly make a profit.

Mr Daniel Goeudevert, chief executive, maintained yesterday that the main reason for the turnaround was the success of the new Escort had achieved in the Western German market.

So far, 100,000 new front-wheel-drive Escorts have been sold in Germany and 450,000 throughout Europe in the year it has been available. When sales in the U.S. are taken into

account, Ford's "world car" already has notched up sales of 1m within 12 months.

In Germany, the Escort has captured 5 per cent of total new car sales, while the old version had less than 1 per cent. This has helped lift Ford's car sales by 20.4 per cent in unit terms in the first six months of 1981, while the German car market fell by 4.8 per cent.

Ford's market share, down to 10.3 per cent at the turn of the year, is now back up to 12.6 per cent, against the group's target of 12 per cent for 1981.

Fiat reshuffle paves way for Iveco share flotation

BY OUR MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

IVECO, Europe's second largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, which is owned by Fiat, is to acquire three companies from its parent. The deal is part of the preparations Fiat is making to sell around 20 per cent of Iveco on the stock market.

The acquisitions will add 7 to 8 per cent to Iveco's turnover, which this year is predicted to rise by 15 per cent from F1 8.7bn to F1 10bn (\$3.9m).

Iveco is to buy Sofim, which has a factory at Foggia, southern Italy, set up in 1978 at the cost of \$20m to make high-speed diesel engines for cars and light trucks. Renault had a 20 per cent stake in the venture when it began, but recently sold out to Fiat. Sofim's 1981 turnover is estimated at 1,200bn.

Mr Giorgio Manina, Iveco's managing director, said yesterday that the deal would con-

solidate his group's position as Europe's leading manufacturer of diesel engines, with an annual output of 270,000 to 290,000 a year, ranging from 46 to 400 hp.

Iveco is also to acquire Carrelli Elevatori, another Italian concern, which is claimed to be Europe's second largest forklift truck manufacturer. Turnover in 1981 of the company, which uses Iveco petrol engines, should be 1,150bn.

The third purchase will be Alfio, which adapts and sells Iveco diesel engines for marine and industrial purposes. Its turnover this year should be 1,130bn. The deals will be completed by the end of the year.

Iveco made a profit of F1 50m in the first six months of 1981, and expects to remain in the black overall, compared with a 1980 loss.

West German operations of Philips deep in red

BY STEWART FLEMING IN FRANKFURT

THE WEST GERMAN operations of Philips, the Dutch electrical giant, plunged into heavy losses in the last fiscal year. This was the result of a major restructuring aimed at improving the group's performance, particularly in the telecommunications and data-processing business.

Sales revenues of Alldiephi, the German operation, in the year to April were virtually unchanged at DM 4.3bn and the company's market position

maintained, but profits of DM 12m in 1979-80 were replaced by a loss of DM 80m (\$34.3m). The company says that the loss would have been DM 100m higher were it not for funds pumped in from the Dutch parent company.

Mounting difficulties in the consumer durable and electrical components divisions, rising labour costs, declining capacity utilisation, and increased raw material and interests costs all contributed to the German operations problems.



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London Branch

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Certificates of Deposit
Maturity Date 21st September, 1983

In accordance with the provisions of the Certificates of Deposit, notice is hereby given that for the six months Interest Period from 18th September, 1981 to 18th March, 1982, the Certificates will carry an Interest Rate of 17½ per annum. Interest will be paid on 18th March, 1982.

Agent Bank
Daiva Europe Limited

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

Issue of new shares

July 1981

Sarakreek Holding N.V.

(Incorporated with limited liability in and under the laws of the Netherlands)

1,049,555 shares

at U.S.\$32.50 per share

373,100 shares were subscribed for this issue through

Sarakreek Participations N.V.

(Incorporated with limited liability in and under the laws of the Netherlands Antilles)

J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited
Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank N.V.
Banque Privée de Gestion Financière S.A.
J. Henry Schroder & Co. S.A.L.
Société Générale de Banque S.A.
Abu Dhabi Investment Company
Gefinor Finance S.A.
in conjunction with
Quilter Hilton Goodison & Co.

The proceeds of the above issue are to be invested in developed real estate in the United States of America

The shares of Sarakreek Holding N.V. are listed on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange and are traded on the over-the-counter market of the Paris Stock Exchange

September 1981

This announcement appears as a matter of record only



Compañia Cervcerias Unidas S.A.

US\$60,000,000

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Banco Exterior de España

Banque de l'Indochine et de Suez

Mercantile Trust Company N.A.

The Riggs National Bank of Washington, D.C.

Union Chelsea National Bank



Agent Bank

Lloyds Bank International Limited

A member of the Lloyds Bank Group

Barclays Bank Interest Rates.

BASE RATE.

Barclays Bank Limited and Barclays Bank International Limited announce that with effect from the close of business on 16th September, 1981, their Base Rate was increased from 12% to 14% per annum.

This new rate applies also to Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited.

RATES FOR SAVERS.

Bonus Savings and Payplan Accounts.
Interest paid was increased from 11% to 13½ per annum.

Ordinary Deposit and Savings Accounts.
Interest paid was increased from 9% to 11½ per annum.



BARCLAYS

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We are pleased to announce the following appointments to

Continental Illinois International Investment Corporation (CIIC)

Kent Pietsch

Executive Vice President and member of the Board of Directors

Geoffrey Osmint

Senior Vice President
Responsible for the International Investment Group

Silvio Rey

Senior Vice President
Responsible for the Swiss Investment Group

CIIC is a subsidiary of



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Continental Bank House
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Telephone: 01-236 7444 Telex: 883820

Companies
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INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

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evidencing entitlement to payment of principal and interest
on an advance made to
Den norske Creditbank (Luxembourg) S.A.
repayment of which is guaranteed on a subordinated basis by
Den norske Creditbank.

DnC

In accordance with the provisions of the Certificates,
notice is hereby given that for the three month Interest
Period from 17th September, 1981 to 17th December, 1981
the Interest Rate will be 18 1/2% per annum and the
Coupon Amount per U.S.\$1,000 will be U.S. \$45.82.

Credit Suisse First Boston Limited
Agent Bank

Williams & Glyn's Bank Limited
U.S.\$75,000,000 Floating Rate
Capital Notes 1991

Unconditionally and irrevocably guaranteed
as to payment of principal and interest by
The Royal Bank of Scotland Group Limited.

For the six months from 16th September 1981
to 16th March 1982 the Notes will carry an
interest rate of 18 1/2% per annum.
The interest payable on the relevant interest
payment date, 16th March 1982
against Coupon No. 5 will be U.S.\$92.39 per
U.S.\$1,000 note.

Bankers Trust Company, London

Weekly net asset value

**Tokyo Pacific Holdings (Seaboard) N.V.**

on January 1, 1980: U.S. \$48.39

on September 14th 1981: U.S. \$63.79

Listed on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange

Information: Piersen, Holding & Piersen N.V.,
Herengracht 214, 1016 BS Amsterdam.**VONTBEL EUROBOND INDICES**
14.5.76=100%

PRICE INDEX	8.9.81	15.9.81	AVERAGE YIELD	8.9.81	15.9.81
DM Bonds	85.08	85.30	DM Bonds & Notes	10.745	10.710
HFL Bonds & Notes	88.77	89.07	HFL Bonds & Notes	11.745	11.778
U.S. \$ Str. Bonds	81.45	80.73	U.S. \$ Str. Bonds	14.434	14.593
Can. Dollar Bonds	79.82	79.70	Can. Dollar Bonds	14.788	14.773

Adapting to VW will cost Nissan only \$20m

By Richard C. Hanson in Tokyo

NISSAN MOTOR said yesterday that it estimates it would cost a modest ¥4bn to ¥5bn (\$17.7m to \$22.2m) to adapt its Zama motor plant, near Tokyo, for the production of Volkswagen's "Santana" model in Japan.

In addition, parts suppliers may have to invest ¥1bn to ¥1.5bn to gear up for supplying parts for the VW model. The two companies earlier this week signed an agreement for the production of the West German model in Japan.

The two companies said each side will bear the capital costs for their respective roles in the project. Nissan will assemble the cars using engines, gearboxes, and some chassis parts supplied by Volkswagen from West Germany. Other parts will be supplied locally.

In the first stage, Nissan, starting in October 1983, will begin producing cars at a rate of 60,000 a year.

At a press conference in Tokyo, Mr. Takashi Ishihara, Nissan's president, said that there were no further joint projects under consideration, but indicated that he had an open mind toward the possibility of other ventures.

Public offer in Singapore by Isetan

By Our Singapore Correspondent

ISETAN (SINGAPORE), a Japanese controlled department store operator in Singapore, is making a public offer of 5m shares of 50 Singapore cents par value each to the public at \$43 per share.

The store, part of the Isetan department store chain of Japan, is also applying for listing on the stock exchange of Singapore. The offer will raise the store's issued capital from \$87.5m to \$100m (U.S.\$4.6m).

Isetan Singapore operates two department stores with a total floor space of 11,085 square metres and two smaller specialty shops. Sales amounted to \$99.6m for the year ended November 1980. Profit was \$11.7m before tax and \$7.1m after tax.

Isetan has forecast current year profit higher than that of 1980 and expects to recommend a final dividend of 8 per cent.

Solid earnings growth at Cape Wine and Distillers

By Jim Jones in Johannesburg

CAPE WINE and Distillers, which was formed with the November 1979 reorganisation of the South African liquor industry, and which effectively controls about three-quarters of the country's wine production, increased operating profits to R39.2m (\$5m) before life (last in first out) stock adjustment and tax in the 15 months to June 30 1981. The previous trading period, which was the six months to March 31, 1980, resulted in an operating profit of R27.1m.

Although the 15 month trading period resulted in an improvement of profits, trading was not altogether easy. There

have been structural changes in the market over the past few years with, particularly, the coloured community in the Cape, which has long been the wine industry's mainstay, switching away from cheap wine to hard liquor and beer. In addition the wine industry is perturbed by excise duty increases.

South Africa continues to have a large wine surplus though production is expected to be affected for some years by major floods earlier this year which destroyed many vineyards in the Cape province. In addition to these problems the Cape Wine's management was

insufficiently worried earlier this year by what promised to emerge as a strong counter-vening retail chain, to attempt to block the merger of liquor retailer Union Wine with the wholesale operation of Kirsh Industries. Kirsh has won control of Union but Cape Wine has a large minority holding and the outcome of the proposed merger has still to become clear.

Cape Wine has declared a total dividend of 14.1 cents from earnings of 28.3 cents per share for the 15-month financial period. Management has not said what it expects from the current year.

Advance at Murray and Roberts

By Our Johannesburg Correspondent

MURRAY AND ROBERTS, South Africa's largest construction company, increased its pre-tax operating profits by 62.8 per cent to R50.8m (\$53.9m) in the year to June 30, from R31.2m the previous year. Turnover passed the R1bn mark for the first time, with an advance of 42.4 per cent to R1.22bn (\$1.29bn), from R854m.

The group is moving steadily into fields besides construction.

The bulk of its property assets has been sold, as have some minor operations in the fields of motor components, pipe manufacturing and ship repair-

ing. The entire capital of Stone Platt Electrical, the electrical components and mechanical power transmission manufacturers, has been acquired, as has that of Saffronics, which makes electronic variable speed drives.

These two concerns form the core of a new division which the management is determined to develop as a major growth area.

Larger acquisitions have been those of the entire capital of James Brown and Hamer, the shipbuilders, and of an indirect 94 per cent interest in C.I. Industries, which makes caravans and

mobile homes.

The management says that completion of the Sasol 3 oil from coal project will reduce the amount of work available to the engineering sector but it believes there is still a substantial amount of work available in the fields of mass housing, mining construction and the construction of electrical power facilities.

A total dividend of 46 cents has been declared from earnings of 156 cents a share. The previous year resulted in earnings per share of 104 cents and a total dividend of 34 cents.

Haw Par ahead at halfway stage

By GEORGIE LEE in Singapore

GROUP PRE-TAX profit of Haw Par International, the diversified investment holding company, increased by 18 per cent, from \$13.1m to \$15.69m (U.S.\$7.28m) for the half-year to end-June on turnover only marginally ahead from \$15.10m to \$15.174m.

The latest profit figure excludes extraordinary losses of \$1.53m arising mainly from foreign exchange losses due to the weakness of the Hong Kong dollar and the Malaysian ringgit. The company had a \$12.5m extraordinary gain in the corresponding 1980 period.

The group, known mainly for its Tiger products that include

Tiger Balm pharmaceuticals and which also has interests in textiles (mostly in Hong Kong), Shipping, computer services, insurance, merchant banking and property, expects a \$387.5m extraordinary profit for the full year from the sale of a 21-storey commercial building at 1 Lockhart Road in Hong Kong.

Pre-tax profits for the whole of 1980 were some \$333m, around 2 1/2 times those of 1979.

In June, the United Overseas Bank (UOB), one of the big four local banks, increased its holdings in Haw Par, one of South-East Asia's most well known and controversial companies. It bought 11 per cent

of Haw Par from Charter Consolidated of the UK, increasing its share in Haw Par to slightly more than 29 per cent. UOB later failed in a take-over attempt, its \$4 a share offer for Haw Par's remaining shares later attracting few takers.

At the time of the offer, Haw Par, which is also quoted in London, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong, was trading well above \$4 in the local market.

During the take-over episode, Mr Jack Chia, the Singapore businessman and thought to be the largest Haw Par shareholder behind UOB, increased his share in Haw Par to more than 10 per cent from about 8 per cent.

Hong Kong changes status of KCR

By Kevin Rafferty in Hong Kong

THE HONG KONG Government has decided to change the status of the Kowloon-Canton Railway (KCR) from that of a government department to a public corporation because the railway is being expanded and becoming more sophisticated.

The KCR, which runs from its Hong Kong headquarters in Kowloon through the New Territories to China, is undergoing a HK\$3.5bn (US\$600m) modernisation and electrification scheme which will be finished by the end of next year. It will increase the railway's passenger capacity tenfold and its freight capacity threefold.

"A strengthened management structure is therefore required to meet both the operational and commercial needs of the new railway," a government official said. He added that if the KCR was separate from the government it could operate on a fully commercial basis.

The structure of the corporation and the question of whether any shares would be offered to the public have not yet been decided, but it is likely that a provisional body, along the lines of the Mass Transit Railway Provisional Authority, will be set up early next year. Mr H. G. Ardley, a senior government official, is carrying out a detailed study of what is required. The corporation is likely to be established by early 1983 when the full electrified services are introduced.

Last year almost 20m passengers travelled on the KCR, but the existing trains are slow, the rolling stock old, and much of the line is single track.

Hong Kong takeover of Californian bank

Commercial Bank of San Francisco has signed a definitive agreement on its previously announced plan to be acquired by Mr Simon C. I. Yip, the Hong Kong businessman, for about US\$16.5m or \$24 a share. Reuter reports from San Francisco. Commercial Bank operates one office in San Francisco and has assets of about \$45m.

ADVERTISEMENT

NATIONAL BANK OF CANADA

APPOINTMENT



Robert René de Cotret

The National Bank of Canada announces the appointment of Robert René de Cotret as Senior Vice-President and General Manager-Investments. Mr René de Cotret has held the position of Senior Vice-President and General Manager-Investments since he joined the Bank in June 1980.

Robert René de Cotret was previously Senior Staff Economist, President's Council of Economic Advisors, Washington, D.C., and later President of The Conference Board of Canada. Members of the Sénat of Canada. He was appointed Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of State for Economic Development.

National Bank's head office is located in Montreal, and its domestic operations are carried out through more than 300 branches in Canada.

The International Division of the Bank has offices in Montreal, Paris, London, Nassau, New York, Chicago and Hong Kong.

THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

U.S.\$30,000,000

Floating Rate Notes 1984

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes notice is hereby given that the Rate of Interest for the next Interest Period has been fixed at 18 1/2% per annum. The Coupon Amount of U.S.\$91.44 will be payable on 17th March, 1982, against the surrender of Coupon No. 6.

17th September, 1981.
Manufacturers Hanover Limited
Agent Bank

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

September 1981.

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National Bank of Abu Dhabi

The Saudi National Commercial Bank

Abu Dhabi International Bank Inc.

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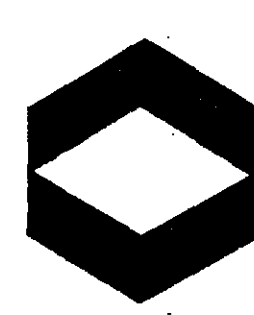
UBAF Bank Limited

Agent

Gulf International Bank B.S.C.



This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

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PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO S.A.**US\$60,000,000**

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Leyland's uncertain future in the heavy truck market

By Michael Pokorny, Neil Dorward and Ray Bayldon

ONE OF the starkest reflections of the current recession has been the sudden collapse of the UK heavy truck market, that is, those in excess of 20 tons gross vehicle weight. Sales in 1980 fell by 30 per cent from their 1979 level.

For the most recent 12-month period (to August 1981) this trend has continued with sales falling by 48 per cent from the level of the previous 12 months. Before 1980, the market had been growing steadily (after the effects of the 1973 oil crisis) with total UK deliveries increasing from 18,939 vehicles in 1976 to 25,864 vehicles in 1979.

However, this overall growth occurred with considerable variation in the market share performances of truck manufacturers. In particular Leyland's share declined from 27 per cent in 1976 to 19 per cent in 1979 and the combined share of the foreign manufacturers rose from 25 to 41 per cent over the same period. The accompanying table provides a market share breakdown for each year from 1976 to 1980 and for the most recent 12-month period, to August 1981.

While this market share data provides a useful summary of the market it gives no insight into the reasons for the variations in manufacturer performance since and little information about future market movements.

With a view to obtaining a more disaggregated and hence a more meaningful view of the truck market, we carried out a survey of truck purchasers in early 1979. We approached more than 200 truck purchasers, and of these 51 agreed to participate in our study. Respondents provided detailed information on their truck fleets, indicating the factors considered important when purchasing a truck. They were invited to express their views on the various truck manufacturers. Data was collected on a total of 6,907 heavy vehicles.

Leyland, in particular, was experiencing severe difficulties during the late 1970s. Our survey was able to identify some reasons for these difficulties and hence to put Leyland's market share performance into some perspective. In fact, our sample was dominated by purchasers of Leyland vehicles. Thus, while it may not provide a firm basis for drawing conclusions about all the manufacturers in the market, it at least provides a basis for assessing Leyland's position.

Such an assessment is particularly relevant given the launch in March 1980 of Leyland's new Roadtrain range of heavy vehicles. The impression in our sample probably results from it being a relatively small one, the Department of Transport estimating that some 152,000 heavy vehicles were being operated in the UK in 1979. However, the trends in the sample closely reflect those in the population with Leyland's share, for instance, falling from 64 per cent in 1976 to 27 per cent in 1979.

One advantage of our sample data is that they provide a

Manufacturer	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1980-81*
Leyland	27.0	21.4	21.5	19.4	19.5	21.4
Ford	6.0	6.8	8.2	5.9	7.2	5.6
Dodge	2.2	1.1	1.7	1.2	1.2	0.7
Bedford	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	2.2	2.4
Foden	5.5	5.6	5.3	5.7	6.7	5.9
Seddon-Atkinson	11.1	11.1	11.2	12.5	11.6	11.2
ERF	9.9	10.5	11.4	11.6	12.2	10.2
Other British	0.2	0	0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Volvo	15.3	14.0	16.0	15.5	15.3	15.7
Daf	5.2	6.9	6.9	6.7	7.2	9.2
Other foreign	14.5	15.5	16.8	18.4	16.8	17.6
Total number of vehicles	16,939	19,565	22,887	25,864	17,996	12,125

* Twelve months to August 1981.

Source: Motorist NR2 data for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders

measure of Leyland's performance in the replacement market. In some ways this is a more accurate indicator of market performance than an aggregate market share, and also provides an indication of possible future market share movements.

As respondents were asked to indicate which of their current vehicles were being replaced by the vehicles on order, it was possible to compare Leyland's share of the vehicles being replaced with its share of the replacement vehicles. The result is an even poorer market position than is implied by its market share decline.

While Leyland accounted for 85 per cent of the vehicles that were replaced, it captured only 10 per cent of the replacement vehicles. And the full effect of this poor performance in the replacement market will be felt only at the completion of the next replacement cycle when Leyland will no longer have the advantage of its present customer market position.

The main advantage of our survey, however, is that through the attitudes and opinions expressed by respondents, some explanations can be provided

for Leyland's poor performance.

The most striking feature of the opinions expressed about Leyland was their diversity, with as many favourable reactions as critical ones. The main complaints against Leyland were its unsatisfactory after-sales service; poor communications; the unreliability of some of its trucks; outdated cabs; unavailability of spare parts as well as their relative lack of standardisation; and poor delivery performance on new cab and chassis units.

It would appear that these criticisms result not so much from any absolute decline in Leyland's performance in these areas, but rather from a relative decline, particularly when compared with some of the Continental manufacturers.

Volvo, for example, was highly regarded for both the reliability of its vehicles (although they were considered highly priced) and the efficiency of its after-sales service. Leyland's main competitive strengths were considered to be the relatively low cost of its vehicles and spare parts.

However, respondents considered standardisation, the efficiency of back-up services and vehicle reliability as the

three most important factors when purchasing heavy vehicles, with vehicle price only the fourth-most important factor. Thus Leyland can be seen to have failed in those areas considered most important by truck buyers.

Leyland's response has been the introduction of its Roadtrain range. It has placed great emphasis on improved reliability and standardisation and has paid particular attention to driver comfort—a clear challenge to the competitive strengths of the Continental manufacturers.

However, establishing (or re-establishing) a reputation as a manufacturer of reliable vehicles will take time, and in addition, Leyland must also devote resources to the improvement of its after-sales and back-up services if its competitiveness is to be fully restored. This is all the more important as Leyland has placed great emphasis on a substantially increased presence in the lucrative Continental market, in which it has traditionally shown little interest.

Leyland halted its market share decline in 1980, and the most recent figures have shown a continued improvement. This is certainly encouraging and Leyland's response to its competitive weaknesses via the Roadtrain range has been an impressive one. But it is still too early to draw any firm conclusions about its success.

The share of foreign manufacturers fell marginally during 1980 but it would seem more reasonable to assume that this is a result of truck buyers becoming more price sensitive during the recession. In fact, in the 12 months to August, 1981, the foreign manufacturers have increased their market share and Leyland's most recent gains have been largely at the expense of the three UK-based specialist manufacturers ERF, Seddon-Atkinson and

Foden.

The market share performance of each of these three manufacturers during the late 1970s has been impressive, but as small manufacturers with relatively limited financial bases they are all currently experiencing severe difficulties. Foden has already gone into receivership and its assets have now been purchased by Paccar, a U.S. truck manufacturer. Seddon-Atkinson is now entirely foreign-owned (International Harvester) leaving only ERF and Leyland as domestically owned manufacturers of any importance.

However, ERF has yet again had to postpone a major expansion programme, a strategy which, however unavoidable, may have serious longer-term consequences since the effects of current under-investment will be felt in the future.

The most recent market share data shows that ERF's share has fallen for the first time since 1976, indicating that ERF is suffering already from its under-investment. Leyland has had a clear competitive advantage in being able to enter the recession with a new range of vehicles.

Although it appears that ERF cannot match this challenge at present, foreign manufacturers may well take it up. Indeed, the recent strong market share performances of foreign manufacturers may be a reflection of just such a reaction. However, ERF was highly regarded in our survey, both for the quality and reliability of its vehicles and for its extensive service networks.



The Constructor: one of Leyland's new Roadtrain range

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By attempting to survive the recession through a strategy of minimum investment and strict control of costs, ERF has been forced to respond to short-term factors in an industry where an appropriate response to long-term factors is crucial.

Leyland, of course, has the advantage of Government support for its survival and so the recession may have the somewhat perverse result of ensuring the survival of a large company with a poor record and uncertain future at the expense of a small concern with a proven past and the potential for continued growth.

The authors are on the staff of the Department of Accounting and Administrative Studies at the Polytechnic of North London.

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announces that
on and after
17th September, 1981

the following annual rates
will apply

Base Rate . . . 14%
(Previously 12%)

Deposit Rate (basic) 11½%
(Previously 9%)

**The Hongkong and Shanghai
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The British Bank
of the Middle East
Mercantile Bank Limited
Antony Gibbs & Sons, Ltd.**



Co-op Bank announces a change in base rate

From 12% to 14% p.a.

**With effect from
Wednesday, 16th September 1981**

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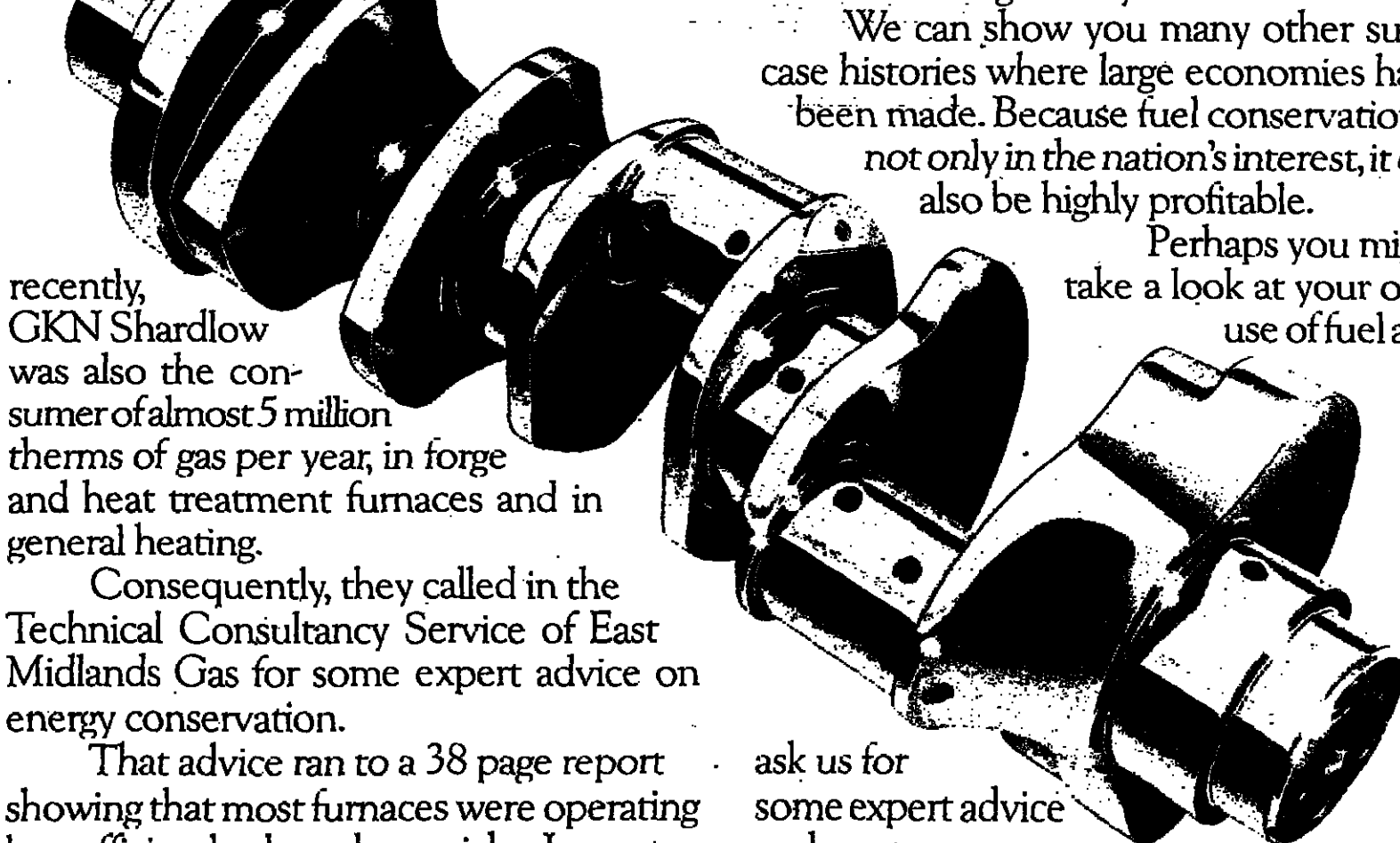
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GKN Shardlow is among the world's
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therms of gas per year, in forge
and heat treatment furnaces and in
general heating.

Consequently, they called in the
Technical Consultancy Service of East
Midlands Gas for some expert advice on
energy conservation.

That advice ran to a 38 page report
showing that most furnaces were operating
less efficiently than they might. It recommended techniques such as ceramic
fibre linings, high velocity burners, careful
control of the air/gas ratio (rather like
adjusting a carburettor) and extensive
insulation.

As a result GKN Shardlow have
already achieved a saving of almost 30%
overall. But once the conservation work is

complete, this figure is expected to reach 42%.

The case history is so impressive that
GKN Shardlow have won the 1980 Gas
Energy Management Award for industry.
But in fact, the opportunities for such
dramatic savings are by no means rare.

We can show you many other such
case histories where large economies have
been made. Because fuel conservation is
not only in the nation's interest, it can
also be highly profitable.

Perhaps you might
take a look at your own
use of fuel and

ask us for
some expert advice
on how to save more.

Then, in a year or two, your own
dramatic savings may well be the subject of
our latest award-winning case history.

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UNION OF SWISS CANTONAL BANKS

September, 1981

Hill Samuel Base Rate

With effect from the close of
business on September 17th 1981
Hill Samuel's Base Rate for lending
will be increased from 12 per cent to
14 per cent per annum.

Interest payable on the Bank's
Demand Deposit Accounts will be at
the rate of 11½ per cent per annum.

Hill Samuel & Co. Limited
100 Wood Street, London EC2P 2AJ.
Telephone: 01-628 8011

National Westminster Bank Limited

NatWest announces that
with effect from Wednesday,
16th September, 1981
its Base Rate is increased
from 12% to 14%
per annum.

The basic Deposit and
Savings Account rates
are increased from
9% to 11½% per annum.

Bank of Ireland

announces that the
following rate will apply
from and including

17th September, 1981

Base Lending Rate
14% per annum



Bank of Ireland

ANZ BANK

Base rate

Australia and New Zealand
Banking Group Limited
announces that on
and after

17th September

its base rate will be

14% per annum

**AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND
BANKING GROUP LIMITED**
(Incorporated with limited liability in the State of Victoria, Australia).
55 Gracechurch Street, London EC3V 0BN Tel: 01-623 7111.

Midland Bank Base Rate

Midland Bank Limited
announces that with effect from
Wednesday 16th September 1981
its Base Rate has been increased
by 2% to 14% per annum.

Deposit Accounts. Interest paid on accounts held at
branches and subject to 7 days' notice of withdrawal
has been increased by 2% to 11% per annum.
Abatement allowance on ledger credit balances for
current accounts which are subject to the standard
personal current account tariff and do not qualify for
free terms will be 8% per annum.



Midland Bank

Standard Chartered

announce that on and
after 16th September, 1981
its Base Rate for lending
is being increased from
12% to 14% p.a.

The interest rate payable on deposit accounts
subject to seven days notice of withdrawal will
be increased from 9% to 11½% p.a.

The interest rate payable on High Interest
deposit accounts subject to twenty one days
notice of withdrawal will be increased
from 10½% to 12½% p.a.

**Standard Chartered
Bank Limited**

Companies
and Markets

CURRENCIES, MONEY and GOLD

Pound improves

Sterling continued to improve
in currency markets yesterday,
underpinned by the latest rise
in banks' base rates. Such a
move had already been dis-
counted to a certain extent
although the rise in Euro-
sterling rates increases sterling's
attractiveness.

The dollar was mostly weaker,
reflecting a softer trend in U.S.
domestic rates and Euro-dollar
rates. However, some dealers
pointed out that prime rates at
20 per cent are still very high
and there is little scope for any
sustained downward movement
unless interest rates fall further.
The D-mark was the most
improved currency within the
European Monetary System
yesterday and rose to its
divergence limit in relation to
its ECU central rate. This limit
is sometimes referred to as the
alarm bell level and represents
75 per cent of the maximum
divergence spread. Each central
bank is normally expected to try
and keep its currency within the
alarm bell limit.

STERLING — trade weighted
index (Bank of England) rose to
88.8 at noon and 88.6 in the
morning. Sterling's gains were
mainly against the dollar. Early
attempts to push sterling higher
against European currencies
were foiled by considerable
switching into the D-mark.
Against the dollar it opened at
\$1.8440 and traded between a
low of \$1.8350, touched late in
the day, and a closing high of
\$1.8450-1.8500.
Against the D-mark it fell to
DM 4.26 from DM 4.29 and
SwFr 3.6875 from SwFr 3.67.
DOLLAR — trade weighted
index (Bank of England) fell
from 109.5 to 108.4. Against the
dollar it closed at DM 2.3030
from DM 2.3060 and SwFr 1.9830
from SwFr 1.9890. It fell against
the French franc to FF 5.5225
from FF 5.5975 but rose against
the Japanese yen to finish at
¥226.75 from ¥226.50.

D-MARK — Very firm at the top
of the European Monetary
System and recently improved
against the dollar. After falling
to a five year low against the U.S.
currency in early August, the
D-mark has improved on an
easier trend in U.S. interest rates
and a better trade performance.
The market remains nervous
about future trends in interest
rates however and continued
tension in Poland — The D-mark
was mostly firmer at yesterday's
fixing in Frankfurt where the
reactions improved at the D-mark's
expense however. The French
franc rose to DM 41.6800 from
DM 41.6750 per FF 100 and
sterling was higher at DM 4.2940
from DM 4.2700, helped by higher
domestic interest rates. The
dollar fell to a three and a half
month low, reflecting a
softer trend in domestic and
Euro-dollar interest rates. It was
fixed at DM 2.3254 from DM 2.3500
and there was no intervention by
the Bundesbank. The Belgian
franc eased to DM 6.1040 per
BF 100 from DM 6.1080 but was
above its floor level of DM 6.0900.

BELGIAN FRANC — One of the
weakest members of the EMS but
remained within its divergence
limit amid continued rumblings
of a possible currency realign-
ment. Central bank support for
the currency continues but at a
lower rate than mid-August when
downward pressure was intense.
The Belgian National Bank
spent BF 9.5bn last week in the
foreign exchange market sup-
porting the Belgian franc. This
was down from the BF 8.5bn
spent the previous week and
BF 20bn in mid-August. The
Belgian franc was steady against
its EMS partners with the D-mark
easing slightly to BF 16.38 from
BF 16.3815 while the French
franc rose to BF 6.83 from
BF 6.8225. The dollar was fixed
lower at BF 35.11 against BF 35.87
but sterling improved to
BF 70.3650 from BF 69.9975.

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

Sept 16	Day's spread	Close	One month	% Three months	% Six months
U.S.	1.8350-1.8500	1.8450-1.8500	0.16-0.25c	-1.36	1.10-1.20c
Canada	2.2300-2.2350	2.2300-2.2350	0.30-0.40c	-5.13	2.80-2.90c
Norfolk	4.70-4.75	4.71-4.72	1-2c	-1.31	2.2-2.4c
Denmark	88.60-89.00	88.65-88.85	30-40c	-0.41	85-105c
Ireland	13.40-13.55	13.40-13.45	8-9c	-7.71	17-18c
W. Ger.	1.850-1.860	1.850-1.860	0.22-0.34c	-2.82	0.8-1.0c
Portugal	4.25-4.32	4.25-4.28	1-1.5c	-2.82	3-3.5c
Spain	120.25-123.00	120.50-121.00	85-200c	-10.36	65-65c
Italy	2160-2185	2171-2175	40-50c	-2.81	185-200c
Norway	10.75-10.82	10.75-10.82	17-19c	-10.36	65-65c
France	10.15-10.34	10.20-10.21	5-5.5c	-2.82	4-5c
Sweden	10.25-10.35	10.25-10.35	2-2.5c	-7.25	10-10c
Japan	415-422	415-422	2-2.5c	-7.25	10-10c
Austria	23.85-24.30	23.85-24.30	2-2.5c	-7.25	10-10c
Swiss	3.65-3.71	3.65-3.71	1-1.5c	-3.27	3-3.5c

Belgian rate is for convertible francs. Financial franc 75.50-76.50.
Six-month forward dollar 2.52-2.62c. 12-month 4.70-4.80c.

THE DOLLAR SPOT AND FORWARD

Sept 16	Day's spread	Close	One month	% Three months	% Six months
U.S.	1.8350-1.8500	1.8450-1.8500	0.16-0.25c	-1.36	1.10-1.20c
Canada	2.2300-2.2350	2.2300-2.2350	0.30-0.40c	-5.13	2.80-2.90c
Norfolk	4.70-4.75	4.71-4.72	1-2c	-1.31	2.2-2.4c
Denmark	88.60-89.00	88.65-88.85	30-40c	-0.41	85-105c
Ireland	13.40-13.55	13.40-13.45	8-9c	-7.71	17-18c
W. Ger.	1.850-1.860	1.850-1.860	0.22-0.34c	-2.82	0.8-1.0c
Portugal	4.25-4.32	4.25-4.28	1-1.5c	-2.82	3-3.5c
Spain	120.25-123.00	120.50-121.00	85-200c	-10.36	65-65c
Italy	2160-2185	2171-2175	40-50c	-2.81	185-200c
Norway	10.75-10.82	10.75-10.82	17-19c	-10.36	65-65c
France	10.15-10.34	10.20-10.21	5-5.5c	-2.82	4-5c
Sweden	10.25-10.35	10.25-10.35	2-2.5c	-7.25	10-10c
Japan	415-422	415-422	2-2.5c	-7.25	10-10c
Austria	23.85-24.30	23.85-24.30	2-2.5c	-7.25	10-10c
Swiss	3.65-3.71	3.65-3.71	1-1.5c	-3.27	3-3.5c

UK and Ireland are quoted in U.S. currency. Forward premiums and
discounts apply to the U.S. dollar and not to the individual currency.

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

Sept 16	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Change	Sept 15	Bank rate £/\$	Special Drawing Rights	European Unit
Sterling	88.6	+2.4	88.5	1.84	0.630496	0.583595
U.S. dollar	108.4	-1.1	109.5	1.44	1.14471	1.05725
Canadian dollar	87.6	-1.7	89.3	0.74	1.28383	1.27483
Australian dollar	108.7	+1.0	107.7	0.74	1.41518	1.40718
Deutsche mark	88.4	-2.0	90.4	0.74	2.69407	2.68407
French franc	111.0	+1.6	112.6	0.74	2.85311	2.84311
Italian lire	87.7	-5.0	92.7	0.74	1.55030	1.54030
Japanese yen	226.75	+0.25	226.50	0.74	2.81589	2.80589
Swiss franc	141.0	+3.7	144.7	0.74	2.09447	2.08447
Yen	141.0	+3.7	144.7	0.74	2.81589	2.80589

Based on trade weighted changes from
Washington agreement December, 1971.
Bank of England Index (base average
1975-100).

OTHER CURRENCIES

- Sept. 16	\$	¢		\$	¢	Mo. Rates
Argentina Peso	10.961	10.891		8.857	5.777	80.00-30.40
Australia Dollar	1.5685	1.6005		0.8656	0.505	Belgium
Brazil Cruzeiro	192.08	192.08		104.12	104.64	Denmark
Finland Markkaa	2.345	2.369		4.432	4.410	France
Greek Drachma	171.78	162.82		57.05	57.20	Germany
Hong Kong Dollar	10.93	11.00		5.795	5.985	Italy
Iran Rial	64.00			80.00		Japan
Israeli Sheqel (SD)	0.212	0.223		0.258	0.253	Netherlands
Luxembourg Pfr.	168.85	69.95		37.61	37.93	Norway
Malaysia Dollar	4.2310	4.2410		2.2650	2.3590	Portugal
New Zealand Dlr.	0.932	0.932		0.932	0.932	Sweden
Qatar Arab. Ryal	8.26	8.31		1.1510	1.1510	Switzerland
Singapore Dollar	3.9350	3.9550		1.2410	1.2410	United States
S. Afr. African Rand	1.4710	1.7485		3.4715	3.5738	Yugoslavia
U.A.E. Dirham		6.78-6.78				

† Rate given for Argentina is the commercial rate. The financial rate for sterling

JOBS COLUMN

Where to look before risking the leap

BY MICHAEL DIXON

IF NAGGED to devote their holiday to jumping out of aircraft at £5.50 a throw, most senior executives would no doubt act as the Jobs Column has done this summer and maintain a stout resistance.

Many of them, however, need little or no persuasion to leap into a new job. Which according to the Eurosurvey recruitment group has much in common with parachute jumping, and rarely into altogether friendly territory at that.

Because of this the group thinks the average senior manager, no matter how successful previously, needs to be far more cautious before taking the plunge. For a start, every landing ground has hazards, the worst of which tend to be hard to spot from a distance.

A lot of ambitions have been wrecked, for example, by a change from management in a bigish concern to a chief executive-designate post in a small business, hitherto managed by its proprietor. A job of that kind, when apparently described candidly and offered enthusiastically by the concern's owner, may well seem straightforward. But it hardly ever will be.

The owner-manager who appoints a deputy does so rather as if personally giving birth to his heir," Eurosurvey says. Often it will be only at the cost of "personal sacrifice, per-

severance and humility" that the newcomer will have any chance of keeping the job for long, let alone of succeeding at it. From my own experience I would advise anyone considering such a change to inquire carefully into which managerial tasks, that theoretically have belonged to the owner, have in fact been delegated to the personal secretary.

Proprietors of small concerns who decide they need a managing director often unwittingly have one already in the shape of a trusted secretary. Having tried it twice in the past, I solemnly warn anyone against walking into such a situation without first undertaking intensive training in guerrilla warfare.

If the job on offer is with a family company, Eurosurvey continues, the chosen candidate is wise to assume that generations of relatives will each "have dug entrenchments and built their own little fortresses." Here the interlopers' prospects of success will be low unless they arrive with bulldozers and preferably the authority to import their own drivers for same. Extensive powers, publicly confirmed by the chairman, are of the essence.

Anyone moving into the senior levels of a medium to large company, on the other hand, does best to assume that it will be made up of a lot of little operating groups, rarely

defined by the official organisation chart and each with its own culture. These need to be discreetly identified and won over one by one, which in each case is likely to require at least some show of sympathy with the native customs.

But it is far from a sufficient precaution to follow the foregoing general rules. If the would-be job-changer does not have access to the opinion of an independent person with thorough knowledge of the organisation concerned, the only safe course is to make a detailed reconnaissance. And in either case, Eurosurvey recommends that no senior manager should take the plunge without first obtaining answers to all the questions in the following checklist:

Checklist

1.—Who are the main shareholders? Who are the directors? What is the role of the board of directors? Is there an executive management board? Who makes the big investment decisions? Have there been any recent changes in the financing of the company and particularly, is there anyone buying in? What form of corporate plans does the company have? Does it have any long-term plans? What are its major activities and its share of the relevant markets? Is it able and willing to

diversify? What is its competitive position and generally acknowledged ranking in its field of operations? What external factors are there which seem likely to condition its operations?

2.—How is the profit of the company distributed? What have been its main investment plans in the past, and how successful have these proved? What is its investment in research and development? How vulnerable are its established products and services likely to be to foreseeable developments?

3.—Is the internal organisation of a straightforward line-and-staff kind, or is it convoluted? What evidence is there of the extent to which the official organisation chart reflects the real structure of power and working relationships?

4.—Does the company's management tend to plan and control its progress or just to react to crises as they happen? What sort of personnel policies does it have? Does it largely develop its managers from the inside or rely on recruiting them from elsewhere? What is the turnover rate among executives, particularly those of comparable seniority?

5.—What is the prevailing style of management in the company? Is the style authori-

tarian, paternalistic or participative? How much does it rely on committee procedures, and what seem to be the main divisions in its internal politics?

6.—What are the characteristics of the person who would be the job-changer's own boss — age, background, career path in the company, main personal traits, and reputation for success among colleagues and elsewhere?

7.—What are the responsibilities and the authority of the job at issue? Have these been defined in writing and if not, why not? Is there evidence that the new appointment will effectively cause any future colleagues to be demoted? (And if there is, either do not join or make sure to find out who they are and keep careful watch on them.)

8.—How will the starting pay and other rewards compare with those of colleagues of similar rank in the company? What are the tax implications of the "remuneration package"? When the job would be overseas, what are the arrangements for accommodation there, for schooling, holiday flights, medical expenses? Would it be possible to repatriate part of your salary? Are there any guarantees of re-employment on returning to the home country? (In general, moving overseas opens up a whole complex of extra hazards, not least in the

range of working cultures that the senior manager will need to deal with and particularly so if the company is a subsidiary of a multinational group.)

9.—What are the differences between the job on offer and the present post? What reliable reasons are there for believing that the change will result in improvements to wealth, opportunity for achievement and fitness for further promotion in future, and the quality of life of any other people whose circumstances will be changed by the move?

This last group of questions, the Eurosurvey group suggests, are probably the most important. But sadly, they tend to be the ones which senior managers are least concerned to answer rigorously before committing themselves to a new employer.

And while the list of prescribed precautions may seem formidable, the group maintains, it is if anything on the short side. Individuals considering making a change in a so-called successful career would do well to riddle their brains in search of other potential dangers in need of investigation. That done, while there is still no certainty that the landing will be happy, at least the job-changers will not have their own carelessness to blame if it is not.

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+car & benefits

A public company, with a turnover exceeding £30 million and decentralised operating subsidiaries throughout the world, is strengthening its group control and finance function.

As one of a team of four Main Board Executive Directors, the responsibilities of this new appointment include the control and improvement of information and accounting systems within the Group, monitoring financial performance and advising on financial policy and planning.

The Director appointed will have previously run a successful financial function in a substantial company, and will be a qualified accountant, probably Chartered. Candidates must have strong commercial leanings and experience

of introducing EDP systems. Determination and initiative are essential, as is compatibility with the existing Directors, and the ability to operate with a small staff.

Applications, which will be treated in strict confidence, should contain relevant details of career and salary progression, age, education and qualifications.

Please write to Douglas Smit, quoting reference 1006/FT on both envelope and letter

Deloitte Haskins + Sells
Management Consultants

128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX

Financial Controller

Bristol

c. £15,000 + car

Berni Inns is a very important part of the Grand Metropolitan Group, with a turnover well into 9 figures, and an aggressive business plan to maintain its position as the U.K.'s market leader in licensed catering.

Consistent with this objective, we have been retained to recruit, as Financial Controller, a qualified accountant aged 30-40, preferably with some retailing background.

The essential qualities sought are flair, in both the personal and commercial sense, demonstrable management skills, professional competence and development potential.

Management Appointments Limited

In other words, you should be a business manager, rather than a technician, and you will therefore receive a comprehensive remuneration package, as well as removal expenses if necessary.

As interviews are scheduled to take place in London during the week beginning 28th September, candidates are requested to send full c.v.'s (including contact telephone numbers) as soon as possible to: Peter Wilson, F.C.A., at Management Appointments Limited (Recruitment Consultants), Albemarle House,

1 Albemarle Street,
London W1X 3HF.
Tel: 01-499 4879.

A Major Career Opportunity

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

to £24,000 + Car

Home Counties

A highly successful British Group, operating in the Transportation, Automotive and Hire/Leasing markets is strengthening its presence in key business areas. The Transportation Division is a vital development sector and has received heavy capital investment.

Reporting to the Managing Director of this Division, you will need to be a professionally qualified and highly experienced Financial Controller, who will make a major contribution to planning and strategy development.

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITIES ALSO EXIST within the Group for really bright, successful ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS, capable of making a major impact and progressing quickly to line Management or Controller level. Probably aged late 20's/early 30's, you will be a professionally qualified graduate with strong career aspirations and the ability to establish credibility at Executive levels.

These positions offer excellent benefits, including a prestige car, BUPA, non-Contributory Pension and relocation assistance, if necessary. To apply, indicating which position interests you, please ring or write to Stephen Boyd, as the Company's adviser, at Cripps, Sears & Associates (Personnel Consultants), Burne House, 88/89 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LH. Tel: 01-404 5701 (24 hours), Telex: 893155 CRIPPS G.

Cripps, Sears

REAL ESTATE SALESPERSON

We are seeking a self-starter. University educated and cultured, gracious manner and some sales background necessary. Selling U.S.A. real estate investments to British institutional investors and individuals. Call:

WHITBREAD-NOLAN INC.

Helen Fahy
25 Haymarket
01-839 7461

CONSULTANT

FINANCIAL RECRUITMENT

NEGOTIABLE FROM £15,000

A consultancy specialising in banking and financial recruitment is urgently looking to appoint an experienced consultant to set up a new division. The requirements are for an ambitious person with a practical banking background and preferably some experience in the field of recruitment. This is a challenging opportunity for someone with drive and ability to become a director of a rapidly expanding organisation.

Telephone M. Groom, 01-626 4200, or write in confidence to: 4/6 Copthall Avenue, London, EC2

CUT THIS OUT

If you are a Senior Executive you may need it one day, the day you suspect your job is at risk. The sooner you come to us the sooner you will be back in a new and probably better job (80% of our clients get higher salaries in their new jobs). If it has happened already contact us without delay. No one can help you better than Europe's most experienced (12 years) Executive Re-deployment organisation. We specialise in probing the unpublished job market (50% of our clients take up under-valued posts). Enquire how your employer can include Outplacement services in your severance arrangements. For a review of your career potential in the current market telephone for a meeting with one of our Senior Counsellors.

Percy COUTTS & CO. LTD
01-839 2271
140 Grand Buildings,
Trafalgar Square,
London WC2N 6EP.

TAXATION MANAGER - BANKING

28-32

Up to £20,000 + benefits

Our client, a major overseas bank, will shortly appoint a Tax Manager to its European Division located in London. His/her responsibilities will include:

- ★ All aspects of contact with the Taxation Authorities in the UK.
- ★ Planning and implementing the most tax-effective structure for the bank in the UK.
- ★ All aspects of tax planning for the Division in conjunction with Head Office.

It is expected that later on the job will evolve to include working with Corporate Business officers on the tax aspect of customer-related transactions. The ideal candidate will be a qualified Accountant who has worked for at least five years in the taxation department of a major professional firm, international bank or large company. Understanding and experience of the international banking business would also be an advantage.

This is a new appointment within the Division and represents a rare opportunity for a Tax Manager with drive and initiative to follow through his/her own suggestions. This position therefore is one in which the person appointed can actually see their responsibilities increasing as a result of their own efforts and which still offers promotion prospects.

Remuneration will be competitive and will include attractive fringe benefits associated with banking.

Please apply to Jack Coutts.

Chichester House, Chichester Rents,

Career plan
LIMITED
PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS

London WC2A 1EG. Tel: 01-242 5775

FUND MANAGEMENT

A leading Accepting House, managing very substantial sums of money, is seeking to fill two fund management posts, both of which carry challenging career prospects. Age range 25 - 32. These are important appointments, each offering a remuneration package worth up to £15,000 p.a. + normal benefits.

Assistant Pension Fund Manager

The successful candidate will be a graduate with several years experience of original research work, gained with a major stockbroker. The ability to produce good written analytical reports is essential, together with an ambition to develop the decision-making skills of a fund manager.

Private Client Fund Manager

Several years experience of fund management and client contact with a major stockbroker or merchant bank are essential to this appointment. The successful candidate will also have a good academic background together with an ability to communicate well with clients.

Please write or telephone in confidence to Somerset Gibbs.

Directorship Appointments Limited

66 Great Cumberland Place, London W1H 8BP. Tel: 01-402 3233

ACA's

£10,000-£14,000 +

Several \$m T/O clients seek young (max 30) ACA's with languages who wish to augment their career in one of the following roles—

EDP AUDIT: £14,000 +
US Chemical company needs a bright innovator experienced computer auditor.

TROUBLESHOOTER: £11,000 +
US Oil company offers superb prospects for on assignments in UK and Europe.

OP. AUDIT: £12,000 +
International travel resolving problems with leading computer company.

Please ring

Linda Finnimore on 01-439 1466 or write to
Gresham Exec. Appts., 11 Hills Place, London W1.

Gresham
Executive Appointments

Section Manager

Securities Clearing

This position has responsibility for prompt settlement of all Eurosecurity trades, and timely handling of all items relating to international accounts being handled through our custodial services, with support from a full department. The successful candidate will have in-depth knowledge of the Euro-security market and operational/settlement procedures, technical knowledge of clearing systems and custodians, with 4-8 years' related experience. Salary negotiable.

Senior Loans Administrator

Applicants should have a minimum of three years' experience in Loans Administration, and be familiar with syndicated loans. Salary c. £7,000.

Foreign Exchange Clerk

Applicants should have a minimum of 1-2 years' experience in foreign exchange with a working knowledge of settlement procedures.

Benefits include LV's, season ticket, BUPA, pension scheme, etc.

Please write with detailed job history to:

Merrill Lynch Holdings Limited
Personnel Department
27 Finsbury Square
London EC2A 1AQ

(No agencies please)

Merrill Lynch

Hoggett Bowers

Executive Selection Consultants

BIRMINGHAM, CARDIFF, GLASGOW, LEEDS, LONDON, MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE and SHEFFIELD

Finance Director

Home Counties, up to £30,000 + car

Our client is a profitable and sizeable subsidiary of a major pharmaceutical multi-national. Growth and development have created the need for a new Finance Director. Reporting to the Managing Director the position will carry responsibility of the entire U.K. finance function. Candidates must be graduate accountants, aged 35-40, accustomed to U.S. style management and yet able to combine their discipline with a distinct commercial perspective. The role demands a strong, outgoing personality. The career prospects could be particularly attractive to those with demonstrable general management talent.

Mrs I.M. Brown, Ref: 19241/FT. Male or female candidates should telephone in confidence for a Personal History Form 01-734 6852, Sutherland House, 5/6 Argyll Street, LONDON, W1E 6EZ.

Conveyancing Partner

Head of Department Designate

City Solicitors
c£20,000-c£40,000

With growth and imminent retirements, a long-established and progressive firm of City Solicitors is planning for succession. An experienced Solicitor is required to develop and, in due course, head their Conveyancing Department. This recruitment would complete a management team of youthful and energetic partners.

The person sought is probably aged between 30 and 40, ideally a graduate and essentially expert in all aspects of conveyancing with an above average knowledge of other areas of relevant expertise. Other qualities needed are commercial acumen, physical and mental energy and the ability to manage people.

Starting income and status will be negotiated to attract the best in the profession. The right candidate will be

offered an immediate salaried partnership followed by rapid accession to equity.

Applications, which will be treated in strict confidence, should contain relevant details of career and salary progression, age, education and qualifications.

Please write to Alan Grompton, quoting reference 1001/FT on both envelope and letter.

Deloitte Haskins & Sells
Management Consultants
128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX

DOCUMENTARY CREDITS & BILL DISCOUNTING

Newly established UK operation of international bank requires banker experienced in dealing with Documentary Credits, Bill Discounting and Trade Finance. Able to assist in the negotiations to establish the credits and thereafter to set up and monitor the procedures. Age immaterial—could suit early retired banker or younger. Salary and terms by negotiation. All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Write with full details to "Confidential" Box A.7625 Financial Times 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4RY

Foreign Exchange Adviser

Bank of America is seeking a Foreign Exchange Adviser to provide money market and treasury advice directly to the Bank's major multinational customers.

In addition to a sound knowledge of the foreign exchange and money markets, the successful candidate will have an understanding of international economics and the ability to communicate effectively with clients at management level.

Scope for further career development is substantial, both within the expanding Money Market Advisory Group and elsewhere in the Bank's international operations. A competitive salary will be accompanied by an attractive package of fringe benefits in line with best banking practice.

Write, in strict confidence, with full personal, career and salary details to: A. J. Tucker, Recruitment Officer, Bank of America NT & SA, 25 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4HN.

BANK OF AMERICA

Financial Director

Potential earnings c. £25,000 + car
Pleasant UK location

A long-established, profitable and growing company, well-known for its innovative range of products, requires an exceptional and dynamic Financial Director.

The task is to provide the determined leadership and skill necessary to provide effective financial control world-wide and to implement agreed improvements, which will lead to better accounting performance.

Candidates must be chartered accountants, in their late 30's or early 40's with outstanding personal qualities and at least five years' experience as a Finance Director or as a Controller in a division of a large company. Substantial treasury management experience is needed and manufacturing experience would be a plus.

The company environment is open, stimulating and friendly—turnover exceeds £30 million.

Base salary c. £22,000 with potential earnings c. £25,000 assuming company performance targets are met—higher if these are exceeded.

Please write—in confidence—with full details. B. G. Woodrow ref. B.1908.

This appointment is open to men and women.

MSL

Management Selection Limited
International Management Consultants
17 Stratton Street London W1X 6DB

United Kingdom Australia Belgium Canada
France Germany Holland Ireland Italy
New Zealand South Africa South America
Sweden Switzerland U.S.A.

Joint Managing Director

Consumer Products
£25,000 and car

Our client is a consistently profitable private company and a long standing supplier of top quality merchandise to major retail. About 1,000 are employed in six factories and turnover exceeds £10m.

This new appointment is to provide management continuity and underwrite a programme of expansion. Initially the emphasis will be on the introduction of new product ranges and their subsequent profitable development, probably via acquisition.

Candidates, probably 35 to 40, should currently hold a profit accountable general management appointment. A background in consumer goods, possibly textiles, clothing or furniture, is required.

North West location and attractive benefits.

Please send relevant details—in confidence—to R. M. Cooper ref. B.60684.

This appointment is open to men and women.

MSL

Management Selection Limited
International Management Consultants
474 Royal Exchange Manchester M2 7EJ

United Kingdom Australia Belgium
Canada France Germany Ireland Italy
New Zealand South Africa South America
Sweden Switzerland U.S.A.

ELECTRONICS ANALYST

A leading firm of London stockbrokers wish to recruit an additional Analyst to join their team specialising in the electrical and electronics sectors.

The successful candidate will probably be aged between 25-30 and have at least two years' analytical experience with a broker or investment institution.

It would be an added advantage if the applicant had analytical experience of the electronics sector. An ability to write well is essential.

Write Box A.7622, Financial Times
10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

LENNOX OIL COMPANY LIMITED ADMINISTRATOR

A small growing oil company based in Edinburgh requires a talented and motivated executive to take charge of all administration and accounting. The candidate should preferably be a qualified accountant or MBA between 27 and 35 years of age. This is an opportunity to take part in building a new oil company from ground floor level. Previous oil company experience would be an asset but is not essential.

The job involves a high degree of responsibility and authority as well as international exposure and unlimited promotion prospects for the right person.

Salary will depend on qualifications and experience.

All enquiries and CV should be sent to:

K. M. Haining
LENNOX OIL COMPANY LIMITED
8 Forth Street, Edinburgh EH3 8J

Scandinavian Ship Finance

Marketing Officer Position in London

To increase its Ship Finance activities in Scandinavia, The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., seeks a marketing officer.

The position to be filled is under the supervision of the Vice President managing the unit. Opportunity for promotion and career development will be in line with the individual's performance and potential.

Candidates should be university graduates, aged between 27 and 34, and fluent in one or more Scandinavian languages, as well as English. They should be self-motivated and possess sound banking and credit skills, acquired over the last four to six years in a credit and marketing position with a major U.S. or European bank.

A highly competitive salary will be supported by a substantial range of benefits.

Please write with background details to: Ms. Rosemary Swift, Personnel Department, The Chase Manhattan Bank N.A., Woolgate House, Coleman Street, London EC2P 2HD. Tel: 01-600 6141.

All applications will be treated with strictest confidentiality.



CHASE

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Bracknell

Neg from £12,000 + car

Our client, Miles 33 Limited, is a young but soundly based designer and manufacturer of complete computer systems for specialised legal, printing and accounting uses. Profitably turning over £1.3m and employing over 50—mostly highly qualified engineers—the company exports over 50% of production, and plans continued rapid growth for the years ahead.

Now sought is a suitably qualified and experienced accountant to:

- Devise and implement sound accounting data bases.
- Prepare and present management and financial accounts.
- Assume a full company secretarial role.
- Develop with the company to Main Board status.

Additional to salary, a profit related bonus scheme will be devised, and assistance with relocation expenses will be provided where appropriate.

Candidates, male or female, please telephone Susan Heath, Recruitment Secretary on Windsor (07535) 67175 (24 hours) for an application form and full job description, quoting ref DB/376.

ICFC CONSULTANTS LIMITED
A subsidiary of Financial for Industry Limited

Banking Appointments

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

The Job

A major International Bank wishes to recruit an experienced banker to market all their services, particularly their foreign exchange services, throughout the United Kingdom and Europe generally. A particular responsibility will be to identify exporters to Latin America and to ascertain their FX requirements.

Qualifications

Fluency in written and spoken Spanish is essential and ability in French and/or German is highly desirable. Experience in marketing bank services, possibly as Representative, and willingness to travel extensively are necessary. Age is not particularly material.

The Rewards

Salary c. £25,000.

Please telephone Paul Trumble

HEAD OF PERSONNEL

Our client, a major European Bank with a long-standing presence in London, wishes to recruit an experienced banker to head its personnel department. Ideally aged between 35 and 45, the successful applicant will show a record of five years in personnel in banking and the last two spent in a senior position. Duties will cover all matters relating to personnel and premises administration with a small staff to manage. Educational requirements include an AIPM and, hopefully, a degree relating to banking and finance.

Salary is negotiable.

CREDIT ANALYST/ LOAN ADMINISTRATOR

An expanding International Merchant Bank wishes to create a new position for an experienced credit analyst. Ideally aged between 28 and 40, the applicant will be responsible for the complete reorganisation of the bank's credit and loan administration areas with an emphasis on giving accurate and helpful services to the marketing officers. The possibility exists of marketing in the near future. This is a management position.

Salary is negotiable at c. £11,000.

Please telephone Richard Meredith

Jonathan Wren & Co Ltd

Banking Appointments,
170 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4LX
Telephone: 01-623 1266

Top Executives

Our clients find better opportunities. Are you interested?

If your talents are being wasted, or your ambitions thwarted, we can help. Our highly skilled career management consultants have all been engaged in a Top Management role. They understand your problems. After evaluating your true potential through discussion and analysis, they work with you through all stages of the job search until you find that better opportunity that is just right for you. Most of these better opportunities are never advertised.

We have an acknowledged standing in the employment market and an outstanding track record of success. That's why we're confident that after a preliminary discussion you will appreciate why we are able to offer the special sort of help that you need. So why not ring us today.

MINSTER EXECUTIVE LTD. 28 Bolton Street, London W1Y 3BB. Tel: 01-493 1309/1305

Ambitious Accountants

Management Consultancy

City based
£12,000-£18,000

Consultancy offers opportunities you may never have considered before. The opportunity, for instance, to develop and broaden your experience; to work in an intellectually stimulating environment often in multi-disciplinary teams; to give real help to clients in identifying and solving management problems. Here the highest standards are demanded and your skills will be stretched to the full.

We are one of the leading firms of Management Consultants, operating internationally as well as throughout the UK. We need additional accountants to undertake a variety of assignments which include:-

- ★ appraising business efficiency
- ★ improving financial planning and control
- ★ developing information systems

To cope with the challenge, you will be aged 26 to 32 with a good degree and an accounting

qualification. Experience, which must demonstrate a record of success and achievement, should include a period in industry or commerce.

In addition, you will need outstanding personal qualities - determination, tact, imagination and the ability to communicate fluently.

Please send in confidence your personal and career details to Geoffrey Thiel, quoting reference 994/FT on both envelope and letter.

Alternatively, telephone him for an informal discussion on 01-248 3913.

Deloitte Haskins + Sells
Management Consultants

128 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX

Group Taxation Manager

West Midlands

This key first line management appointment reporting directly to the Group Finance Director is with a major British group with established interests in engineering, construction and consumer durable markets and a turnover exceeding £350m.

From the W. Midland group headquarters, the appointed candidate will provide authoritative advice on all aspects of group tax planning including USA and other overseas subsidiaries, and also the group property company.

This opportunity should appeal particularly to corporate tax specialists with a proven record in UK and international tax affairs.

A professional qualification, supported by practical experience in industry or commerce, is necessary.

Salary negotiable; car; usual large company benefits; relocation assistance.

Please write - in confidence - in the first instance for a personal history form to E. I. Clark ref. B.1921.

This appointment is open to men and women.

MSL

Management Selection Limited
International Management Consultants

Union Chambers 63 Temple Row Birmingham B2 5NS

Assistant Treasurer

London

Fosco Minsep's business is materials technology - the development, manufacture and supply of products, systems and technical services to help improve its customers' competitiveness and ability to meet the demands of their particular markets. The Group has worldwide sales running at over £300 million and operating companies in more than thirty countries.

We are seeking an Assistant Treasurer to join the small central finance team based at our London head office. This position offers an excellent opportunity to someone wishing to further his or her career in the Treasury field.

The successful candidate is likely to be a qualified Chartered Accountant or Business School graduate with a minimum of two years' experience in a multinational group or large professional firm. He or she will report to the Group Treasurer and will have direct responsibility for operating management throughout the world. The salary will reflect the importance attached to this post, and other benefits and conditions of employment are in keeping with a major company.

Would applicants please write indicating briefly their reasons for application and enclosing a full curriculum vitae to Mrs. P.H. Rayer-Dyson, Group Personnel Administrator, Fosco Minsep International Limited, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AR.



Fosco Minsep

PORTFOLIO MANAGER

Gold and other precious metal shares

We are looking for an individual or an organisation capable of aggressive trading of a substantial portfolio of the above mentioned variety on a discretionary basis.

A proven record of past performance is required

Write in full confidence to: Box A.7620, Financial Times
10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

Accounting Operations Manager

West London

up to £10,000

Sutcliffe Catering Co (South) Limited, one of the fastest growing industrial caterers, has a vacancy for a young part-qualified accountant.

Reporting to the Finance Director the successful applicant, male or female, will be responsible for 20 staff in Purchases/Sales Ledger, Wages and Treasury functions. He/she will also be required to assist in the imminent computerisation of the Company's accounting systems and provision of financial data to the Board.

Applicants must have had experience of running large accounting departments on computerised systems, be ambitious and currently studying for their ACCA or equivalent.

Please telephone or write for an application form to:

Chris Goff, Finance Director,
Sutcliffe Catering Co (South) Limited,
Park House, 207-211 The Vale,
Acton, London W3 7QS Tel: 01-749 9100.

Sutcliffe Catering

INSURANCE/REINSURANCE COMPANIES JOURNALIST

Leading business information publisher, based in the City, is looking for an experienced journalist to help run and develop a news-gathering operation on insurance and reinsurance companies worldwide. The successful applicant will input statistical information into hard-copy publications and a computerised database service, and maintain and develop the companies section of a fortnightly newsletter - World Insurance Report.

The person appointed will have:

- at least three years' qualifying experience as a business/financial journalist
- a familiarity with non-life insurance markets in various countries
- the ability to write accurately and compactly against tight deadlines.

Educational and/or professional background in a numerate discipline and reading ability in a 2nd European language would be highly desirable.

Salary by agreement within company structure, five-day 40-hour week, usual fringe benefits.

Please apply with full curriculum vitae to:-

Susan Smith, Personnel Officer
Financial Times Business Information Limited
Bracken House, 10 Cannon Street
London EC4P 4BY

FINANCIAL TIMES
EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

COMPANY ACCOUNTANT

ABR CHEMICALS LIMITED is a recently formed subsidiary of Associated British Foods Limited (one of the largest and most successful food manufacturing companies in the UK). ABR Chemicals will manufacture starch and has been formed in conjunction with Finnish partners. The new Company is in course of building its production facilities at Corby on a green field site and in due course the successful applicant will be based at the factory.

We are looking for a qualified Accountant under 35 years of age. The successful candidate must be commercially aware, and apart from his/her overall financial responsibilities he/she will be expected to contribute in all aspects of the Company. The applicant must possess the ability to communicate effectively with all levels of management. In addition to technical ability the applicant should have a keen interest in computers.

Please send a detailed CV to:

T. D. Sugden, Managing Director
ABR CHEMICALS LIMITED
52 Mark Lane
London EC3R 7PE

FUND MANAGER

—U.K. Equity Portfolios

Provincial Insurance Company Limited is a medium sized composite company with a 1980 premium income of £87m and present funds under management of £210m including unit trusts. The Investment Department wishes to recruit a Fund Manager to join its small team. The successful applicant will be required to assume responsibility for a number of the Group's equity portfolios.

Applicants should be under 35 years of age, preferably hold a degree or professional qualification and should have had at least three or four years' experience in managing equity portfolios with either an institution or a firm of stockbrokers.

A good starting salary will be offered and fringe benefits include a low cost mortgage facility.

Applications with curriculum vitae to the
Investment Manager, H. T. W. Janson



Provincial Insurance
Company Limited

222 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4JS.

INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL MANAGERS

Central London

Two vacancies exist in this youthful but established multi-discipline firm

INVESTMENT MANAGER to manage existing discretionary portfolios in co-operation with the Investment Director and to assume responsibility for investment administration.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT to develop existing contacts in conjunction with the Consultancy Director.

Candidates for both positions will be expected to demonstrate experience and to have built a good personal connection. Preference will be given to those with professional qualifications. Preferred age 30-40, these appointments are open to men and women.

Remuneration by arrangement. Successful candidates can expect an early board appointment.

Write in strictest confidence with
concise career and personal details to

Box A.7621, Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

Financial Director—Hford Essex

£15,000-£20,000 + Car + Benefits, to join a group with turnover of £5m, to be responsible for entire financial running of Company. In addition he/she will be expected to make contribution to general management of the companies activities. Candidates will be qualified accountants, probably 30/40 with a proven record.

Write giving full details of previous experience and personal history.

The Chairman,
WIGGINS THOMAS (HOLDINGS) LTD.,
Beefeater House, 99 Sunnyside Road,
Hford, Essex IG1 1HJ.

Assistant Controller

Oil Industry

London

c. \$17,000 + car

This major British oil company is enjoying excellent results from its exploration, production, refining, shipping and marketing activities throughout the world. Rapid growth in the exploration subsidiary justifies the need for this new position.

The Assistant Controller will run much of the accounting function, allowing the Controller to focus on strategic areas. There will be considerable involvement with planning, systems development and taxation. Career prospects within this expanding group are outstanding.

Candidates must be qualified accountants who can demonstrate success as part of a senior financial team within the oil industry. Knowledge of North Sea exploration accounting would be an advantage. Personal qualities of commitment, adaptability and ambition are essential. Age is indicated as early 30's.

Please reply in confidence giving concise career and personal details and quoting Ref. ER505/FT to J. J. Cutmore, Executive Selection.

AMS

Arthur Young Management Services
Rolls House, 7 Rolls Buildings
Fetter Lane, London EC4A 3NL

A member of the AUSA Group in Europe
and of Arthur Young International

Business Development Manager Industrial & Commercial Construction Projects

Our client, a national contracting group, is seeking an experienced executive, based at their London Head Office, to assume responsibility for developing their activities in integrated design/construction and Management Fee projects. Candidates, probably aged over 35, must be self starters and combine a suitable commercial/marketing background with experience of Capital Development projects and a record of successful negotiations at high level.

Responsibilities will include seeking out and developing new business opportunities, assessing client requirement, and ensuring that sound competitive proposals are presented. The successful applicant, male or female, will be responsible to a Board Director for implementing policy. Travel within the company's UK regional network will be entailed in order to operate alongside an existing marketing team in the pursuit of these specific types of projects. Opportunities to develop this kind of business in the Group's overseas operational areas could also be available.

Salary will be negotiated and benefits are those expected of a major national group.

This is a re-advertisement; previous applicants need not apply.

Please write with full personal details to Liz Hanna at the address below, quoting ref: BDM/480/FT. Please list on a separate sheet any companies to which your application should not be forwarded.

B&B

CONFIDENTIAL REPLY SERVICE
Benton & Bowles Recruitment Limited,
197 Knightsbridge, London SW7.

ELECTRONICS ANALYST

Wood, Mackenzie & Co. (Stockbrokers) are members of the Stock Exchange with offices in Edinburgh and London. Our investment research department, based in Edinburgh, employs over twenty analysts providing high quality analysis on a selected range of industries. At the present time we have a vacancy in this department for an analyst to join the team covering the electrical and electronic sectors.

Suitable candidates will preferably have either direct experience in these industries or as an analyst with a stockbroker or investment institution. They will be expected to analyse the industry in depth in order to prepare reports for our institutional investment clients. Direct contact with a wide range

of senior people in the electrical/electronic industries and the investment community is therefore involved.

This is a challenging opportunity for someone with the right qualifications to become a leading commentator on electrical/electronic industries.

The salary is negotiable, but will be fully competitive. The total remuneration includes a profit sharing bonus. The firm operates a contributory pension scheme.

For further details please write or telephone to:

A.R.K. Mackintosh, Partner,
Wood, Mackenzie & Co.,
Erskine House, 68-73 Queen Street,
Edinburgh EH2 4NS.
Tel: 031-225 8525



WOOD, MACKENZIE & CO.
MEMBERS OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE

Financial Director

Five figure salary and car

Our client, the highly successful United Kingdom subsidiary of a major international group, requires an experienced, energetic Financial Director. Applicants should hold an ACA, ACMA or equivalent qualifications and will preferably be graduates.

The key requirements include the ability to manage a modern accounting function through a young team of able accountants, the personal attributes to hold his or her own in the boardroom with senior European and US financial management. Also required is the experience to ensure the smooth operation of a sophisticated suite of computer-based cost accounting management and financial control systems.

Age is of less importance than the ability to plan, organise, direct and control the

budgeting, financial and management accounting affairs of an organisation with a twenty million pound turnover from its UK operations. The company's headquarters is pleasantly located within easy reach of Belfast with excellent educational and recreational facilities near at hand. The reward package, including a company car, will not be an obstacle for the right person.

Please send comprehensive career details to PA quoting the reference number on the envelope. Replies, which should not refer to previous correspondence with PA, will be forwarded direct, unopened and in confidence to the client unless addressed to our Security Manager listing companies to which they may not be sent.

PA MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS LTD
EXECUTIVE SELECTION DIVISION

Ref. 96/FD/

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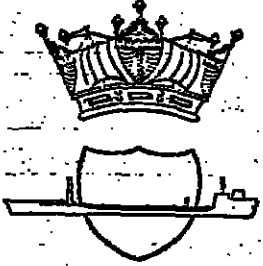
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INCO

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"NEWLY QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANCY APPOINTMENTS"

THURSDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 1981

The Financial Times has arranged with the Institute of Chartered Accountants to publish a list of those candidates who were successful in the recent Part II examinations.

We propose to publish the list in our issue of Thursday, 24th September, 1981, which will also contain several pages of advertisements under the heading of "Newly Qualified Accountancy Appointments."

Advertising rates will be £24.50 per single column centimetre. Special positions are available by arrangement at premium rate of £29.50 per s.c.c. Copy date is Tuesday, 22nd September. For further details please telephone 01-248 4782 or 4864 (direct lines).

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Companies and Markets

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

Expected base rate rises bring no relief to equities

Index down 27.9 in three days but Gilt-edged steadier

Account Dealing Dates
 *First Declared Last Account
 Dealings (Days) Sept 21
 Aug 28 Sept 10 Sept 21
 Sept 18 Sept 24 Sept 25
 Sept 28 Oct 6 Oct 9 Oct 19
 Now-time dealings may take
 place from 9.30 am two business days
 earlier.

More settled conditions returned to Government securities yesterday following the expected rise in clearing bank base rates to 14 per cent, but London equity markets remained in the doldrums. Small investors were attracted to certain long-dated Gilts offering yields of 16 per cent, but quotations were unable to make any real recovery because of relatively sizeable sellers of other securities.

The steadier tendency also reflected hopes that Tuesday's downturn in U.S. broker loan rates might herald a general fall in American interest rates from their current high levels. After a two-day slide extending to 21 points, medium and long-dated British Funds managed recoveries ranging to only 4, and even these were pared during the after-hours trade. Short-dated stocks, occasionally better initially, reverted to around overnight levels, and the FT Government Securities index, at 62.67, picked up only 0.15 from Tuesday's 62.52, following an investment incentive for equities was further diluted by reports of looming confrontation over the Government's 4 per cent provision for public sector pay. Leading shares moved narrowly despite further fluctuations in the popular Electricals.

After the official close, however, values were noticeably lower following yesterday's early weakness on Wall Street. The FT Industrial Ordinary share index, down from 3 to 5 points at all six hourly calculations, closed with a fall of 8.8 more at 525.5 to extend its slide to nearly 25 points in three days. Trading statements tended to be overlooked in the excitement, but British Aerospace weakened following the group's threat not to proceed with the A320 Airbus project unless the Government provides assistance. The recently improved activity in Traded options proved to be short-lived and only 888 deals were completed yesterday, consisting of 802 calls and 83 puts. Dealings in call options were dominated by ICI and RTZ which attracted 158 and 174 trades respectively, the latter following the interim statement.

Legal & General improve
 Legal and General added 5 to 25p in response to the satisfactory interim profits and the agreed \$140m offer for Government Employees Life Insurance of the U.S. Composites again trended easier, but Eagle and Star held at 30p following the Amalgamated Bankers' large selling order. The depressed Willis Faber which shed 17 for a two-day fall of 23 to 37p in the wake of the interim statement. Confirmation of the 2 per cent increase in base rates encouraged a firmer tone among the major clearing banks which closed with modest improvements. Discount Houses took a

distinct turn for the better, Unilever rising 20 to 43p and Allen Harvey and Ross 10 to 32p. An attempted rally in Breweries failed to gain impetus and the leaders ended around the day's lowest. Bass was particularly dull at 21p, down 6. Wines and Spirits were lower under the lead of Distillers down at 19p, Arthur Bell, 12p, and Tomenia, 7p, shed 2 apiece. Laid Gorden eased the turn to 42p awaiting today's half-timer. Leading Building issues remain vulnerable to selling on repercussions from increased interest rates. Farnham shed another 8 to 38p; the interim results are due next Monday. Ready Mixed Concrete gave up 6 more to 19p and Blue Circle 4 to 42p, while Redland lost 5 to 18p. Travels and Arrol fell 6 for a two-day loss of 23 to 162p on the disappointing interim results and the chairman's gloomy statement, while Magnet and Southern lacked support and relinquished 10 to 44p. ICI succumbed to small selling and shed 8 to 28p.

Leading Stores drifted easier in subdued trading. Gussies A shed 3 more to 43p, while Marks and Spencer gave up a couple of pence to 12p, as did Macclesfield 19p, 12p, interim figures expected today. The turn to 70p, Cornhill Dressed continued to react to profit-taking and fell 7 for a two-day loss of 23 to 162p, but Polly Peck rallied 5 to 28p. Anticipation of further takeover developments prompted a reaction of 20 to 45p in Ricardo Engineers, while Bifurcated Engineering gave up 4 to 30p on the pressing of the interim dividend and half-year loss. Bestobell met fresh selling and lost 14 to 42p, but Penland Industries, still reflecting the increased interim dividend and profits, firmed 3 to 60p. Comment on the interim results caused fresh selling of British Aerospace which touched 30p before rallying to close 12 off on the day. The Smiths Industries fell 8 to 35p, while further scattered offerings led Polymark 6 cheaper at 84p, Carlisle Industries lost 10 to 18p.

Hoover A advance
 Mainly reflecting the absence of support, leading miscellaneous industrials drifted lower. Beecham, 20p, and Glaxo, 38p, both lost 4, while Bewater closed down at 22p. The latter's speculative buying left Hoover A, 9 dearer at 11p, but Channel Tunnel, still reflecting adverse Press comment, weakened 15 more to 18p. Comment on the preliminary results prompted a reaction of 20 to 45p in Ricardo Engineers, while Bifurcated Engineering gave up 4 to 30p on the pressing of the interim dividend and half-year loss. Bestobell met fresh selling and lost 14 to 42p, but Penland Industries, still reflecting the increased interim dividend and profits, firmed 3 to 60p. Comment on the interim results caused fresh selling of British Aerospace which touched 30p before rallying to close 12 off on the day. The Smiths Industries fell 8 to 35p, while further scattered offerings led Polymark 6 cheaper at 84p, Carlisle Industries lost 10 to 18p.

Shops were featured by Garne Booth which advanced 3 to 56p following the return to profits at the interim stage. A brief recovery movement in the Electrical leaders petered out and most quotations closed around the day's lowest. GEC, 73p, and Thorn EMI, 44p, closed with falls of 10 apiece, while Rael ended 12 lower at 43p and Plessey 6 off at 34p. BICC new shares were briskly traded before settling without alteration at 37p premium. George H. Scholes featured secondary issues with a rise of 20 to 18p following better-than-expected preliminary results. Vague talk of a possible rights issue prompted nervous selling of Vickers which closed at the day's lowest with all of 8 at 18p. GKN were also unsettled at 18p, down 9, awaiting today's interim figures. Elsewhere in the Engineering leaders, Hawker, 31p, and Tubex, 13p, eased 4 apiece. Occasional movements in secondary issues. Mining Supplies gave up 5 to 12p after the annual statement and Jones and Shumann lost 3 to 53p on the reduced interim dividend and profits. Against 2p, Davy Corporation hardened 2 to 17p in response to a report that the company is expected to win

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Leading Stores drifted easier in subdued trading. Gussies A shed 3 more to 43p, while Marks and Spencer gave up a couple of pence to 12p, as did Macclesfield 19p, 12p, interim figures expected today. The turn to 70p, Cornhill Dressed continued to react to profit-taking and fell 7 for a two-day loss of 23 to 162p, but Polly Peck rallied 5 to 28p. Anticipation of further takeover developments prompted a reaction of 20 to 45p in Ricardo Engineers, while Bifurcated Engineering gave up 4 to 30p on the pressing of the interim dividend and half-year loss. Bestobell met fresh selling and lost 14 to 42p, but Penland Industries, still reflecting the increased interim dividend and profits, firmed 3 to 60p. Comment on the interim results caused fresh selling of British Aerospace which touched 30p before rallying to close 12 off on the day. The Smiths Industries fell 8 to 35p, while further scattered offerings led Polymark 6 cheaper at 84p, Carlisle Industries lost 10 to 18p.

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main markets, shed 23 and 10 respectively among generally dull Leisure issues. Against the trend, Ulster TV added 5 to 68p on speculative interest. In Motor Components, Lucas gave up 7 more to 21p. Distributors, on the other hand, ended a shade firmer where altered. Lax Service recovered 3 to 11p, while Cadbury responded to renewed bid speculation and closed 4 better at 10p. Newspapers lacked support and closed with widespread losses. Daily Mail A dipped 10 to 38p, while falls of 5 were common to News International, 11p, and Associated, 18p. In contrast, movements among Paper / Printings usually favoured holders. Benrose were outstanding at 53p, up 4, following the sharply increased first-half earnings and the dividend forecast. Buxton closed a penny to the good at 143p after interim profits in line with market expectations. The trend towards dearer money continued to undermine speculative interest in Land Securities losing another 6 to 30p and MEPC 5 for a two-day fall of 13 to 21p. Berkeley Hamro, interim results today, eased 2 to 28p, while Rammeron A declined 10 to 60p. The increased annual loss clipped 1 from Amalgamated Estates, 23p.

Oil continued to drift lower in quiet trading, BP easing 4 to 28p and Lamsco 10 to 47p, Barmah advanced to 11p in response to better-than-expected interim figures, but reacted to close only 2 better on the day at 11p as the market digested the Elexmere Port closure costs. Movements of note in Textiles were usually attributable to special situations. Recent takeover speculation prompted a reaction of 20 to 45p in Ricardo Engineers, while Bifurcated Engineering gave up 4 to 30p on the pressing of the interim dividend and half-year loss. Bestobell met fresh selling and lost 14 to 42p, but Penland Industries, still reflecting the increased interim dividend and profits, firmed 3 to 60p. Comment on the interim results caused fresh selling of British Aerospace which touched 30p before rallying to close 12 off on the day. The Smiths Industries fell 8 to 35p, while further scattered offerings led Polymark 6 cheaper at 84p, Carlisle Industries lost 10 to 18p.

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profits. Tern-Consultants continued to make useful progress, reflecting renewed speculative support with a rise of 7 for a three-day advance of 14 to 62p. **Gold sharply lower**
 Weakness in the bullion price - finally 8 lower at \$451 an ounce - coupled with renewed profit-taking left South African Golds showing sizeable losses for the second successive day. Overnight American selling prompted a sharp markdown at the outset after which prices continued to lose ground in the wake of international selling. An attempt at a rally around mid-day proved short-lived and the market resumed its downward trend to close at the day's lowest. The Gold Mines index dropped further, 14.1 to 403.0, a two-day decline of 25.1. In the heavyweights, Randfontein dropped 22 to 227 while losses of about a point and more were common to De Beers, 148, Hartebeest, 233, Western Deep, 222, and Western Holdings, 231. In the medium-priced issues, Blyvoor gave up 63 to 60p and Welkom 33 to 76p. South African Financials mirrored the weakness of Golds, Johannes ending 21 down at 53p.

were reported to be at the bottom end of market expectations. Platinum sustained heavy losses with Impala 30 down at 415p, Lydenburg 13 off at 30p and Rustenburg 9 easier at 293p.

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FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	Sept 16	Sept 15	Sept 14	Sept 13	Sept 12	Sept 11	Year ago
Government Secs	62.67	62.52	62.34	62.34	62.34	62.34	70.81
Fixed Interest	62.67	62.52	62.34	62.34	62.34	62.34	71.78
Industrial Ord	525.5	534.3	541.0	552.4	566.0	584.4	500.8
Gold Mines	403.0	418.0	429.0	451.0	451.0	451.0	487.9
Ord. Div. Yield	8.75	8.64	8.57	8.51	8.51	8.51	7.35
Earnings, Yld. (X100)	9.95	9.77	9.66	9.47	9.78	9.93	12.07
P/E Ratio (net)	12.87	12.58	12.38	12.48	12.73	12.73	7.08
Total Bargains	15,497	17,869	17,741	17,293	15,828	15,478	18,974
Equity turnover £m.	135.85	155.07	146.61	137.17	99.96	120.84	120.84
Equity bargains	14,001	16,808	15,850	15,058	11,791	15,305	15,305

10 am 529.7, 11 am 530.3, Noon 530.5, 1 pm 530.4, 2 pm 529.4, 3 pm 529.5.
 Latest index 01-249 9028
 NR = 11.47.

Base 100 Govt. Secs. 16/10/25. Fixed Int. 1928. Industrial Ord. 1/7/35. Gold Mines. 12/9/36. SE Activity 1974.

HIGHS AND LOWS

	1981		Since Completion			Sept. 15	Sept. 16
	High	Low	High	Low			
Govt. Secs.	70.61 (29.5)	62.52 (35.9)	127.4 (87.38)	49.18 (31.07)	Daily Gold edged Bargains	772.4	780.7
Fixed Int.	72.01 (20.0)	64.71 (33.9)	90.55 (51.47)	30.55 (16.07)	Bargains Value	280.9	285.9
Ind. Ord.	597.5 (99.7)	448.0 (14.1)	507.5 (34.5)	49.4 (34.45)	5-day Avg. Gold edged Bargains	149.9	151.4
Gold Mines	499.0 (148)	362.6 (25.6)	438.9 (22.68)	37.6 (20.17)	Gold edged Bargains Value	271.0	271.0

S.E. ACTIVITY

581. The Tinto-Zinc touched 515p immediately prior to the half-year earnings but reacted 500p and closed barely changed on a balance at 512p as sizeable selling followed the results which were reported to be a bottom end-of-market situation.

Platinum sustained losses with Impala 20 down 415p, Lydenburg 13 off at 415p and Rustenburg 9 easier at 415p.

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1981

NEW HIGHS (15)		NEW LOWS (64)	
Stock	Price	Stock	Price
Deutsche Bank	11.00	National Westminster	14.00
Stewart Financial	11.00	Irish Life	14.00
Acrow	11.00	Place Gas	11.00
Bravura	11.00	Guinness	11.00
FOODS (1)		Stewart Financial	11.00
Squirrel Horn	11.00	Amber Day	11.00
North (M. F.)	11.00	Forward Electricals	11.00
Bellair Composites	11.00	Newman Interiors	11.00
Moss (Robert)	11.00	Stewart & Pitt	11.00
MOTORS (1)		F.M.C.	11.00
Adams & Gibson	11.00	ASHLEY IND.	11.00
Garner Booth	11.00	Carlisle Ind.	11.00
Vicki-Ton	11.00	Wood & Sons	11.00
NEW LOWS (64)		Elson & Robbins	11.00
National Westminster	14.00		
Irish Life	14.00		
Place Gas	11.00		
Guinness	11.00		
Stewart Financial	11.00		
Amber Day	11.00		
Forward Electricals	11.00		
Newman Interiors	11.00		
Stewart & Pitt	11.00		
F.M.C.	11.00		
ASHLEY IND.	11.00		
Carlisle Ind.	11.00		
Wood & Sons	11.00		
Elson & Robbins	11.00		

RISES AND FALLS

	Rises	Falls	Same
British Funds	60	32	
Corporations	11	7	52
Foreign Bonds	101	374	825
Industrial	40	170	228
Financial and Props	12	38	33
Plantations	10	94	64
Mines	13	111	74
Others	377	794	1,415

FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS	Wed. Sept. 16, 1981					Tues. Sept. 15	Mon. Sept. 14	Fri. Sept. 11
	Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Earnings Yld. (Msc.)	Gross Div. Yld. (% of Div.)	Est. P/E Ratio (Est.)	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.
In parentheses show number of stocks per section								
CAPITAL GOODS (214)	350.16	-1.0	10.34	4.51	11.92	353.68	360.13	362.50
Building Materials (25)	308.26	-1.2	14.82	5.55	7.70	311.95	320.34	322.99
Contracting, Construction (28)	350.03	-0.3	16.68	5.01	6.97	371.08	381.19	382.92
Electricals (30)	1146.31	-1.2	7.88	2.47	15.85	1150.04	1169.50	1181.60
Engineering Contractors (10)	680.23	-1.0	13.97	5.59	9.08	684.41	694.52	704.63
Mechanical Engineering (69)	139.87	-1.6	11.57	5.70	16.78	142.07	146.11	148.64
Metals and Metal Forming (13)	164.89	-1.4	9.64	7.19	13.60	167.15	170.81	171.44
Motors (21)	102.11	-0.5	16.77	6.78	1.11	102.64	105.93	106.48
Other Industrial Materials (18)	371.92	+0.1	8.96	6.87	13.60	371.65	383.18	384.90
CHEMICALS GROUP (195)	273.69	-0.8	12.53	5.87	9.67	278.83	282.21	285.02
Brewers and Distillers (27)	284.97	-1.6	15.72	6.78	7.65	285.95	291.01	293.22
Food Manufacturing (22)	244.15	-0.2	14.95	6.37	8.08	243.51	248.78	251.00
Food Retailing (14)	590.76	-0.8	9.10	3.28	13.33	590.84	595.25	591.40
Health and Household Products (7)	331.21	-1.5	8.37	4.46	14.28	332.62	340.80	342.50
Leisure (22)	438.25	-0.9	9.26	5.11	13.42	438.94	448.08	448.71
Newspapers, Publishing (12)	478.10	-0.6	12.55	6.19	11.54	480.92	492.22	491.70
Packaging and Paper (13)	120.07	-0.8	14.35	7.42	8.35	119.93	145.01	144.74
Stores (40)	232.16	-0.4	11.55	5.28	11.64	235.64	240.78	242.50
Textiles (23)	158.89	-0.5	7.88	5.92	17.89	161.12	164.73	165.51
Tobacco (3)	258.42	-1.2	19.66	9.66	5.96	261.47	265.34	268.46
Other Consumer (16)	274.75	-1.0	4.36	6.86	10.63	270.19	278.74	280.45
OTHER GROUPS (79)	224.15	-0.8	11.17	6.36	11.45	225.25	230.25	231.74
Chemicals (15)	220.35	-0.7	5.89	6.41	27.88	220.83	230.46	231.74
Office Equipment (5)	107.58	-0.7	15.39	7.95	7.86	108.32	113.35	114.53
Shipping and Transport (13)	499.57	-0.1	21.22	7.35	5.66	499.77	505.77	506.50
Miscellaneous (46)	298.24	-0.1	12.75	5.63	9.49	298.35	305.88	306.50
INDUSTRIAL GROUP (408)	292.75	-0.9	11.52	5.41	10.76	293.35	301.32	301.34
Oil (12)	684.96	-0.7	21.39	8.41	5.94	685.67	691.35	693.38
500 SHARE INDEX	343.23	-0.8	11.52	5.91	9.21	347.29	353.88	354.96
FINANCIAL GROUP (119)	262.47	-0.3	—	3.75	—	263.21	267.88	268.96
Banks (6)	274.63	-0.6	32.46	6.84	3.63	277.17	282.72	283.74
Insurance Houses (10)	225.01	+1.6	—	8.86	—	221.33	261.72	262.95
Life Purchases (3)	225.15	—	13.36	8.87	10.36	225.15	230.08	230.50
Insurance (Life) (10)	225.15	+0.2	—	5.61	—	221.88	230.08	230.50
Insurance (Compensation) (9)	225.15	+0.2	—	7.68	—	221.85	230.08	230.50
Insurance Brokers (8)	428.85	-0.8	16.40	5.54	13.05	431.50	440.78	443.50
Merchant Banks (13)	158.26	-1.1	—	5.89	—	160.67	163.79	164.93
Property (50)	458.78	-1.0	4.28	3.99	32.24	462.82	476.37	477.10
Miscellaneous (10)	176.85	+0.3	18.11	6.31	6.72	176.38	179.62	182.10
Investment Trusts (109)	300.83	-0.6	—	5.57	—	300.72	303.96	315.00
Financing Finance (3)	264.67	-0.3	14.92	5.46	8.17	261.34	265.39	266.50
Overseas Traders (19)	625.40	-0.2	38.96	6.99	11.64	626.24	636.24	637.50
1000 SHARE INDEX (750)	312.87	-0.7	—	5.94	—	313.67	321.34	321.74

ET UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE[illegible][illegible]

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

[illegible]**INSURANCE—Continued**

Low	Stock	Price	%	High	Low	Stock	Price	%	High
128	Am. Nat. W. 20	230	0	230	129	Am. Nat. W. 20	230	0	230
129	San Antonio	230	-1	230	130	San Antonio	230	-1	230
130	San Life Sp.	230	0	230	131	San Life Sp.	230	0	230
131	Texas Nat. 20	230	0	230	132	Texas Nat. 20	230	0	230
132	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	133	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
133	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	134	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
134	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	135	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
135	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	136	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
136	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	137	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
137	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	138	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
138	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	139	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
139	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	140	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
140	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	141	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
141	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	142	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
142	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	143	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
143	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	144	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
144	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	145	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
145	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	146	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
146	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	147	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
147	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	148	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
148	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	149	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
149	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	150	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
150	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	151	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
151	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	152	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
152	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	153	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
153	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	154	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
154	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	155	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
155	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	156	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
156	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	157	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
157	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	158	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
158	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	159	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
159	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	160	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
160	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	161	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
161	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	162	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
162	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	163	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
163	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	164	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
164	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	165	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
165	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	166	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
166	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	167	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
167	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	168	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
168	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	169	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
169	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	170	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
170	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	171	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
171	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	172	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
172	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	173	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
173	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	174	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
174	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	175	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
175	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	176	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
176	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	177	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
177	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	178	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
178	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	179	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
179	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	180	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
180	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	181	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
181	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	182	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
182	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	183	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
183	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	184	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
184	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	185	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
185	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	186	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
186	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	187	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
187	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	188	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
188	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	189	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
189	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	190	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
190	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	191	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
191	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	192	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
192	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	193	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
193	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	194	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
194	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	195	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
195	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	196	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
196	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	197	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
197	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	198	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
198	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	199	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230
199	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230	200	W. Nat. 20	230	0	230

PROPERTY—Continued[illegible]**INVESTMENT TRUSTS-Cont.**[illegible]

OIL AND GAS—Continued


Stock	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Value	Time
365	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
366	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
367	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
368	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
369	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
370	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
371	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
372	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
373	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
374	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
375	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
376	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
377	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
378	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
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410	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
411	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
412	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110

Stock	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Value	Time
365	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
366	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
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411	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
412	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110

Stock	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Value	Time
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366	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
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368	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
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407	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
408	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
409	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
410	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
411	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
412	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110

Stock	Price	Change	High	Low	Open	Close	Volume	Value	Time
365	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110
366	110	10	120	110	110	110	100	110	110</

The Japanese bank that helps you grow

 **SAITAMA
BANK**

Tokyo Int'l Dept. & Foreign Business Dept.
Tel. (03)-21-1-121
London Branch Tel. (01) 248-9421
Saitama Branch (Europe) S.A.:
Tel. (02) 230-8100

MINES—Continued

[illegible]

OVERSEAS TRADERS

[illegible]

TEAS
India and Bangladesh

295	220	Acacia Dodder	£1	253	6.0	1.7
295	188	Acacia Frouter	£1	180	10.0	2.3
420	580	Lavender Plants	£1	415	18.5	2.9
365	255	McLeod Russell	£1	295	7.5	7.5
290	240	Moran	£1	264	5.0	4.2
213	108	Willington	£1	193	12.5	2.4

Sri Lanka

450	365	Luxury	£1	415	£21.0	1.3
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Africa

65	57	Rue Estates	£1	57	£1.0	4.3
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MINES

[illegible]

E11 ¹ / ₂	Knox 600 RJ	E11 ¹ / ₂	-1	\$4.00c
624	Libman RJ	E11 ¹ / ₂	-5	\$3.30c
E11 ¹ / ₂	Southwest 50c	E18 ¹ / ₂	-2	\$4.30c

[illegible]

£11	Ang. Am. Coal 50c	£16 ³ / ₄	-1	Q108c	3
£17	Anglo Amer. 10c	765	-38	Q110c	2

[illegible]

E36 ¹	Anglo-Am. Inv. 50c	E42	-3	0890c
340	De Beers Df. 5c	366	-26	075c

650	285	Impella Plat. 20c	415	-20	0110c	1.0	9
220	122	Lyngbya 12c	205	-13	0023c	1.0	9
315	206	Ris. Plat. 10c	293	-9	0040c	2.5	9
Central African							
210	115	Coronation 25c	130	-5	060c	1	9
650	220	Falcon Rh.50c	220	-5	0020c	1.8	9
135	100	Roose Cst. N4	100	-	0010c	1.0	9
59	34	Wanda Col. Rh.1	34	-2	0010c	2.7	9
32	22	Zam. Cpr 5800.24	23	-	03c	0.9	9

NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated, prices and net dividends are in pence and denominated in £25. Estimated price/earnings ratios and covers are based on latest annual reports and accounts and, where possible, are updated on half-yearly figures. P/E's are calculated on "accrual" basis; earnings per share being computed on profit after taxation and worldwide ACT where applicable; bracketed figures indicate 10 per cent or more difference if calculated on "cash" basis. Covers are based on "weighted" distribution, i.e. weighted by the number of dividends due to profit after taxation, excluding exceptional profits/losses but including estimated extent of offsettable ACT. Yields are based on middle prices, are gross, adjusted to ACT of 10 per cent and allow for value of declared distribution and Rights. "Top" Stock.

into reduced, passed or deferred.
to non-residents on application.
on request granted

Times degree of regularity as stated elsewhere.
 Decl in under Rule 1632(A), not listed on any Stock Exchange
 not subject to any listing requirements.
 Decl in under Rule 1633.
 Price at time of suspension.
 Indicated dividend after pending scrip and/or rights issue: other
 relates to previous dividend or forecast.
 Merger bid or reorganization in progress.
 Not comparable.
 Some history: reduced fund and/or reduced earnings indicated.
 Forecast dividend; cover on earnings updated by latest interim
 statement.

9 only for restricted dividend.
S not allow for shares which may also rank
date. No P/E ratio usually provided

[illegible]

REGIONAL MARKETS

[illegible]

3-month Call Rates

[illegible]

G.M.S. W.	25	Tyber & Lewis	12	Cherter Gold	2
Geardian	25	Turner Investments	10	Gold	2
G.N.N.	25	Unilever	10	Leasing	2
Hawker Siddeley	25			Rio T. Zinc	2

A selection of Options traded is given on the London Stock Exchange Report page

"Recent Issues" and "Rights" Page 40

This service is available to every Company dealt in on the Exchanges throughout the United Kingdom for a fee of 50p per company for each month.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Thursday September 17 1981

Balfour Beatty Construction
02888 8700
for industrial building

REAL INCOMES SQUEEZED BY INCREASE IN LIVING COSTS

Wage rise level falls to 9%

BY DAVID MARSH

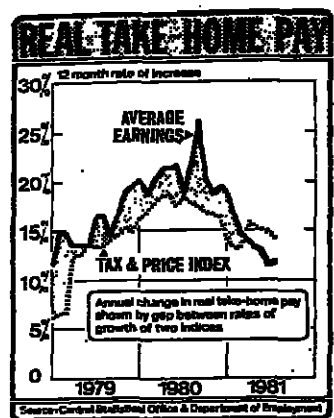
THE AVERAGE level of wage rises in the 12 months to July fell to about 9 per cent, less than half the 20 per cent average during the corresponding 1979-80 period.

The sharp recession-induced fall led to an increasing squeeze in real incomes, because the cost of living has risen much faster than average earnings during the past 12 months.

The underlying level of average earnings, reflecting the progressive moderation of pay increases, rose 11.5 per cent in the 12 months to July compared to 12.5 per cent up to June, according to the Department of Employment.

The underlying growth rate is expected to have dropped slightly further in August and September.

The difference between the



11.5 per cent earnings rise and the 9 per cent level of wage settlements mainly reflects wage drift from promotions and job-changing, as well as changes

The proportion of gross domestic product represented by output of manufacturing industries in Britain has fallen from about one third in 1970 to less than a quarter in 1980, according to the Government's latest statistics on national income and expenditure. Details, page 6

in the composition of the work force between the two pay rounds. The department's seasonally adjusted index of annual earnings rose 12.1 per cent during the 12 months to July to 205.3 (January 1976=100). This was slightly above the increase in the 12 months to June of 12 per cent, but was still around the lowest since April 1978. The July increase slightly

overstated the underlying growth in earnings because of distortions caused by back pay and the delayed Civil Service settlement.

The annual rise in earnings, which reached a peak of 22 per cent last August, has been running well below the increase in the cost of living, measured by the Government's tax and price index, for several months. This takes account of the rise in the personal tax burden as well as the increase in retail prices.

During the 12 months to July, the tax and price index rose 14.3 per cent compared with an increase in the retail price index of 10.9 per cent. The retail price index for August, to be published tomorrow, is expected to show a slight increase in the annual rate to above 11 per cent.

Row looms over Denis Thatcher letter

By Robin Reeves

A POLITICAL ROW was brewing yesterday over a letter sent by Mr Denis Thatcher, the Prime Minister's husband, urging Mr Nicholas Edwards, Welsh Secretary of State, to speed up a planning appeal for a hotel and housing development at Harlech in Snowdonia national park.

A copy of the letter, which the Welsh Office says has disappeared from its files, is published in this week's edition of the Welsh fortnightly magazine *Ardded*.

The letter, written on Mr Thatcher's Downing Street notepaper, says: "Dear Nick: First, I always hesitate before bothering busy Ministers with 'problems'; they have too many from other sources."

"Second, I have to declare an interest: in this I am a consultant to IDC, whose wholly-owned subsidiary Housing Development and Construction is the appellant."

"The relevant information is set out in letter (2) of this file, the core of which is that it has taken 11 months to set up a Planning Appeal hearing. Officials will doubtless advance good excuses but I would doubt, good reasons. Obviously nothing can be done to advance the hearing but I thought you might be interested and concerned at this sort of incident."

"The cost of the prodigious delays to the construction and building industry is enormous; in this particular case hundreds of thousands of pounds have been locked into an unproductive asset. Kind regards, Yours Denis."

The letter, dated December 11, 1980, also has an initialled verdict published last month. The local MP, Mr Dafydd Elis Thomas of Plaid Cymru, said he was shocked at the news of Mr Thatcher's letter. He would be demanding to see the complete Welsh Office file of the case as soon as possible.

Notice of appeal was given in April, seven months before Mr Thatcher's letter, and the hearing took place last March. The Welsh Office planning inspector ruled in favour of the company, though he did recommend that no more than nine houses a year should be built to minimise the impact of outside ownership.

This caveat was rejected by Mr Edwards in his final appeal verdict, published last month. The local MP, Mr Dafydd Elis Thomas of Plaid Cymru, said he was shocked at the news of Mr Thatcher's letter. He would be demanding to see the complete Welsh Office file of the case as soon as possible.

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THE LEX COLUMN

What 14% means to the clearers

With an air of the greatest reluctance the clearing banks duly hoisted their base rates yesterday morning to 14 per cent. And with the share prices of the Big Four clearing banks closing gains of only around 2p, the stock market appeared to agree that the higher cost of money would not lead to any substantial boost from the endowment profits earned on current account deposits. With only just over three months of the current year remaining, analysts were not inclined to raise their 1981 profit estimates by more than the odd 2 or 3 percentage points.

All the same, the clearing banks have been left off a hook this year. When base rates fell to 12 per cent and looked like possibly dropping further, the prospect loomed of serious pressure on domestic profits.

Midland has been the most vulnerable, and has been engaged in some active pruning of costs. Now that base rate is 14 per cent, not 10 as it might have been, the question of whether the Big Four could have faced the cheap money challenge will have to remain unanswered. The greater problem now, perhaps, is that the banks have not got around to altering their changing structure to dissipate the endowment element. It has scarcely seemed an urgent matter until now.

Fortunately the clearers' persecutors in the Treasury could never repeat a one-and-for-all levy, could they?

One tell-tale oddity in yesterday's series of base rate statements was that Midland alone, failed to narrow the spread between base rate and seven-day branch deposit rate from 3 to 21 points. Even at this late stage in the year this could add a useful few pence to the bank's dropping profits total. The price must be a falling market share of deposits. But after its Crocker purchase, profits might seem to have a higher priority in the short run for Midland.

RTZ

The bizarre antics of the Rio-Tinto-Zinc share price this year have owed very little to the company's immediate trading prospects and yesterday's interim figures, showing net earnings down 28 per cent from the second half of 1980 at £47m, left the shares only 1p lower at 512p.

Some hopes may still be pinned on a full bid for RTZ but cooler heads seem now to have prevailed and the fully-taxed rating of around 12 times

book worth for its US acquisition and around 16 times reported earnings. This is broadly in line with values seen in other recent bids, but still looks a very fancy price for a business with a dull earnings record in an industry which has been thrown into some disarray by violent swings in interest rates. And the goodwill element of as much as £40m looks substantial relative to the bidder's own published net worth of £121m.

Against that, L and G says

International mergers are becoming increasingly fashionable in the world's insurance industry. Yesterday, Legal and General followed the example of several continental companies and bid £140m for a U.S. life company. At the same time, Provident Life fell gracefully into the arms of Winterthur of Switzerland, while Eagle Star produced its first set of figures since Allianz of Germany snapped up 28 per cent of its shares in June.

L and G is paying around twice book worth for its US acquisition and around 16 times reported earnings. This is broadly in line with values seen in other recent bids, but still looks a very fancy price for a business with a dull earnings record in an industry which has been thrown into some disarray by violent swings in interest rates. And the goodwill element of as much as £40m looks substantial relative to the bidder's own published net worth of £121m.

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L and G is paying around twice book worth for its US acquisition and around 16 times reported earnings. This is broadly in line with values seen in other recent bids, but still looks a very fancy price for a business with a dull earnings record in an industry which has been thrown into some disarray by violent swings in interest rates. And the goodwill element of as much as £40m looks substantial relative to the bidder's own published net worth of £121m.

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EEC split over monetarist policy

BY JOHN WYLES IN BRUSSELS

THE EUROPEAN Community's efforts to prepare economic policy guidelines for the next five years have run into trouble.

Belgium, broadly supported by France, objects to a draft policy document which reaffirms the Community's faith in the monetary policies followed for the past few years.

Belgium has attached a statement of dissent to the draft and is expected to propose at a meeting of EEC economics and finance ministers today that it be referred back for amendment by officials.

The Belgian statement claims that the draft "places excessive emphasis on stabilisation policies (restrictive monetary and budgetary policies, wage moderation) and on the spontaneous action of market

forces." While agreeing that it contains the main elements of the necessary medium-term strategy for the 10, Belgium calls for amendments so that the guidelines concentrate more on reducing all private sector costs, including the costs of capital.

There should be emphasis on selective support for domestic demand, the Belgians say, on energy-saving and substitution policies, reduction of public sector net borrowing requirements, and working-sharing and specific employment policies.

The Belgians have been openly supported by Denmark while France has reserved its position to allow the new Socialist Government time to consider the draft.

However, a long foreword by M Francois-Xavier Ortoli, the

Commissioner responsible for economic policy, is widely seen here as an advance indication of French views.

This foreword is reported to have been described by German officials as "out-and-out Keynesianism."

This view is shared by some UK officials who regard M Ortoli's introduction as politically undesirable. They also believe it would be impossible legally to adopt both the foreword and the draft programme.

The forward emphasises the main points of the draft programme—the need for continuing strict monetary and fiscal policies, wage moderation and structural adjustment. But M Ortoli puts greater stress on job creation and the need for a much stronger macro-economic effort at Community level to

co-ordinate monetary policies and objectives, stimulate investment and to bring both sides of industry into closer consultation.

The objections raise the possibility that member governments might for the first time be unable to agree formally on medium-term economic policy guidelines.

Belgium and its supporters may endorse the draft only if the Ortoli foreword and the Belgian statement are retained, while Germany and the UK are expected to resist any significant amendments.

Community economic guidelines are always sufficiently general to allow member governments to believe that they have secured endorsement of their current policies.

Exxon wins share of £1.1bn deal in Indonesia

By Richard Cowper in Jakarta

EXXON Chemical, part of Exxon Corporation, of the U.S., has won a contract to design, build and manage the major part of a petrochemical plant at Aceh, North Sumatra.

The project, likely to have an overall value of about \$2bn (£1.1bn), is the biggest joint-venture deal ever awarded by Indonesia.

Exxon is expected to take 60 per cent of the equity in the project. The balance will be taken up by Pertamina, the Indonesian oil company, and possibly the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank associate.

Professor J. B. Sumarlin, the Indonesian Minister of State, said yesterday.

Details of the equity and finance have not yet been worked out. Exxon, however, is thought to have won the contract at least partly because of its ability to raise finance.

Professor Sumarlin said that finance for about 70 per cent of the project would have to be raised through loans.

Exxon's main rivals were CDF-Chemie of France and Lummus of the U.S., working in a consortium Phillips Chemical and Mobil, both of the U.S., dropped out of the running last January.

The deal, not yet formally signed, brings to \$7bn the value of contracts awarded by the Indonesian Government in the petroleum sector over the last year.

Construction of the Aceh plant, which will be Indonesia's biggest petrochemical project is due to start next year and be completed in 1986, Professor Sumarlin said.

It will use natural gas as its main feedstock and provide raw material for Indonesia's growing plastics industry.

Beecham antibiotic 'overcomes' resistance of common diseases

BY DAVID FISLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

A DRUG which beats the antibiotic resistance displayed increasingly by many common diseases such as influenza and bronchitis was announced by Beecham yesterday.

Mr James Diamond, chairman of Beecham Pharmaceuticals, said the broad-spectrum antibiotic—called Augmentin—had a wider range of activity than any oral penicillin or oral cephalosporin available.

It was likely to have a major impact on the practice of antibacterial therapy throughout the world, he said.

Augmentin is a combination of Amoxycillin, Beecham's biggest-selling semi-synthetic penicillin launched in 1972, and a newly-discovered chemical capable of rendering a drug-resistant microbe vulnerable to antibiotics again.

The chemical, called potassium clavulante, was discovered

at the Beecham research centre at Brookham Park, Surrey. It is a natural substance, originally discovered in a mould but now being made by biotechnology processes at the group's Worthing factory.

Beecham estimates that bringing Augmentin to the market has cost about £15m in research and development, and a further £5m in manufacturing investment.

The drug was cleared by the Committee on Safety of Medicines and given a production licence by the Department of Health this spring.

Clavulante itself has almost no antibiotic activity. In association with a penicillin, however, it protects the antibiotic and extends its spectrum of activity to attack a greater number of bacteria, including those which have developed a resistance to penicillin.

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Beecham scientists believe it will be particularly welcomed by doctors for the treatment of staphylococcal skin infections such as boils, and for urinary tract infections, both of which have proved increasingly difficult to treat with antibiotics.

Bacteriological surveys in various countries suggest it is effective against about 95 per cent of the infecting organisms found in general practice.

The cost of treatment, on the basis of the recommended normal daily dosage, works out at 75p per day—comparable to the cost of other commonly-prescribed antibiotics.

The company said yesterday it planned to introduce the drug to more than 150 countries where it is marketing medicines today. It hopes to receive the approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration by 1983.

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Ford invests £216m in Brazil to build Escort

BY ANDREW WHITLEY IN RIO DE JANEIRO

FORD OF Brazil is to invest \$400m (£216m) to expand substantially plant capacity and build the Escort model here despite an unprecedentedly severe recession in the local vehicle industry.

When the new assembly lines start up in mid-1983, Brazil will be capable of producing between 80,000 and 100,000 Escorts a year, mainly for the domestic market, but just behind General Motors.

The success of the venture depends heavily on a recovery in the domestic market, as only about a quarter of total Escort output is intended for export.

In the first six months of this year, total vehicle produc-

tion in Brazil dropped by half. The major manufacturers are gloomily predicting that 1981 sales could be as low as 450,000, down from last year's record 1.17m.

Ford executives see little prospect of a recovery to 1980 levels within the foreseeable future. The only consolation is that, so far this year, the U.S. company has pushed its market share up to nearly 20 per cent, still in third place, but just behind General Motors.

Ford's present production capacity in Brazil is 160,000 cars — a level it has achieved in the past two years — but the company feels that it is unlikely

to sell more than 100,000 cars this year.

Crucial to the financial success of the expansion programme is the outcome of negotiations with the Brazilian government on a continuation of an export benefits scheme due to expire, in Ford's case, at the end of 1982.

However, a senior Ford executive said yesterday that the fact that the company has begun spending significant sums on the project indicated that a satisfactory outcome to the protracted negotiations was assumed.

The company anxious to calm fears in Britain that the

Brazilian Escort might be exported to the UK—undercutting the British product with its high labour costs said there were no plans to make a right-hand drive vehicle in Brazil.

Nor, apparently, is the car intended to compete in traditional British export markets. Most of Brazil's Escorts are destined for the rest of Latin America.

Construction work on the expansion programme at Ford's Sao Bernardo site has begun and Escort models are already being tested.

West German Escort sales take off, Page 29

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